

Syracuse University

SURFACE

Architecture Senior Theses

School of Architecture Dissertations and
Theses

Fall 2018

Bridge: Fantasy of the demilitarized zone

Lan Li

Syracuse University

Yifei Li

Syracuse University

Follow this and additional works at: https://surface.syr.edu/architecture_theses



Part of the [Architecture Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Li, Lan and Li, Yifei, "Bridge: Fantasy of the demilitarized zone" (2018). *Architecture Senior Theses*. 428.
https://surface.syr.edu/architecture_theses/428

This Thesis, Senior is brought to you for free and open access by the School of Architecture Dissertations and Theses at SURFACE. It has been accepted for inclusion in Architecture Senior Theses by an authorized administrator of SURFACE. For more information, please contact surface@syr.edu.

BRIDGE

FANTASY OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE

Yifei Li, Lan Li

THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE

A photograph of a heavily fortified border area, likely the DMZ between North and South Korea. The image shows multiple layers of barbed wire fencing stretching across a dry, hilly landscape. A line of soldiers in camouflage uniforms is patrolling a dirt path that runs parallel to the wire. In the background, a hill is topped with a large, fortified structure, possibly a bunker or observation post, also surrounded by wire. The sky is overcast and grey.

FANTASY OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE

Syracuse University
School of Architecture
Yifei Li, Lan Li

Advisors: Marcos Parga, Bess Krietemeyer, Mark Linder

Fall 2018

CONTENTS

I. Thesis statement&Introduction

II. Case Study/ Precedent

III. Site plan

IV. Bridge of Equality

V. Bridge of No Return

VI. Bridge of Renuion

VII. Fantasy Images

VIII. Bibliography

Thesis Statement

Architecture can do many things and solve many problems of the local condition. For example, skyscrapers meet high demands of housing and offices; sustainable green buildings are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient. When it comes to bigger topics like dealing with social and cultural conflicts which influenced by national and political decisions, the usual architecture types may not resolve or help as much as expected. So, for dealing with these topics, we find that architecture has limitations.

However, when we look through other fields like art, we can find an opportunities to address them. For example, Ben Shahn was American artist, He is best known for his works of social realism. His works are often critical of American life, but by exposing social problems. One of his works, "The Passion of Sacco and Vanzetti" (1967, mosaics) is established on the wall of H.B Crouse Hall in Syracuse University. His works were generated based on the real story that Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were framed by murdering in Massachusetts and executed in 1927. But even there was no enough evidences and government still insisted to arrest them because they were anarchist and Italian immigrants and placed them on the federal government's watch list of dangerous subversives. This sensational case captured the attention of people around the world, many of them protested against the convictions. The author translated the whole processes of arrest, trial and execution into ironic and sarcastic way to express on the paintings. He encourages people to understand the reality of the condition.

Though architecture cannot solve large social and national conflicts, but it can review and expose the realities to public using symbolic forms and use theoretical approaches to draw people's attention for realizing the significant of some conflicts and realities. We choose the DMZ as out site because it is one of the most dangerous and high-militarised borders between two neighboring counties, North Korea and South Korea. They had been one county around 100 years ago, while they have many conflicts and differences now. There are many stories and secret beyond the DMZ and the two Koreas. We would like to use architecture as a media to make people realize and understand what kinds of conflicts they have by exposing them theoretically through architecture.

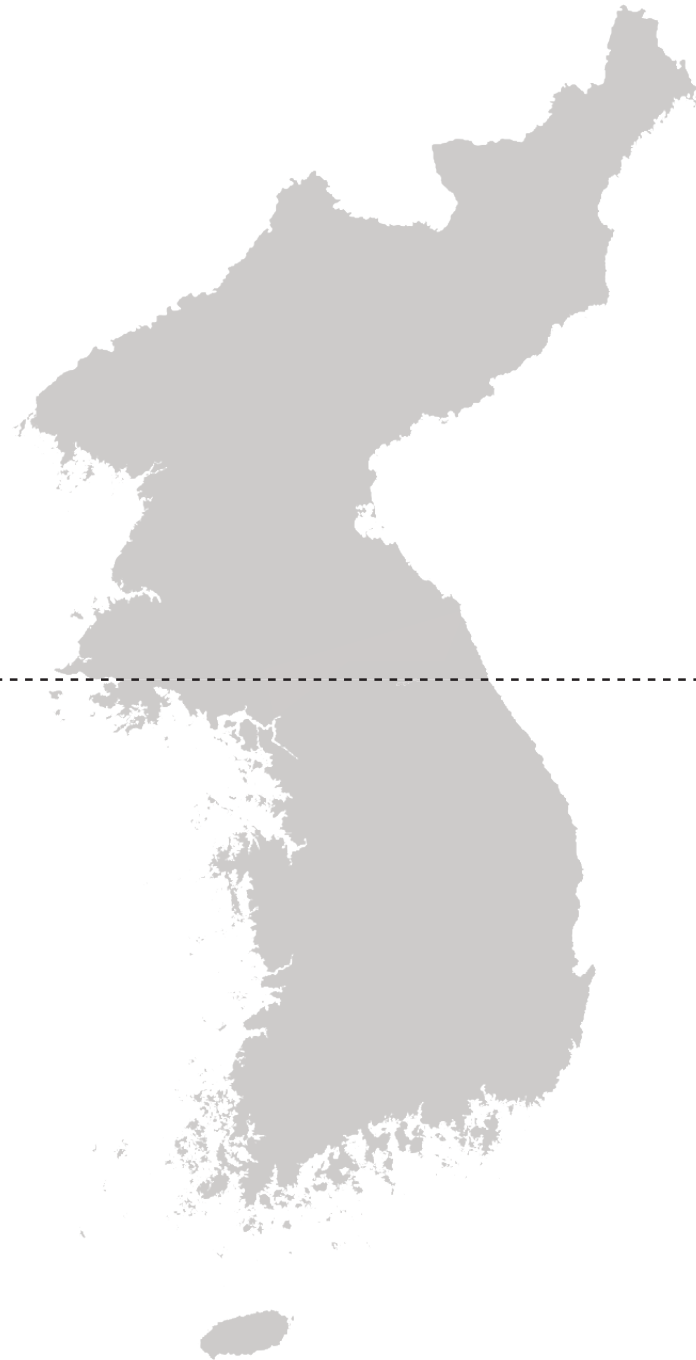
Bridge is the name of our thesis. Our "Bridge" does not focus on deconstruction or emphasizing the DMZ, rather it frames the conflicts between the DMZ and two Koreas. There are three bridges for addressing three realities; first is lack of freedom to cross border between the North Korea and South Korea, second is that different social structure systems control and affect the two Koreas differently and last one is a large group of divided families will pass away without seeing their relatives once.

INTRODUCTION



DMZ-Division of the Korea

1896



38th Parallel Line was proposed to limit Japanese and Russian Empires' influence in Korea after the Sino-Japanese War

1910



Japanese Empire occupied Korea after
Japanese victory in the Russo-Japanese
in 1905

1945



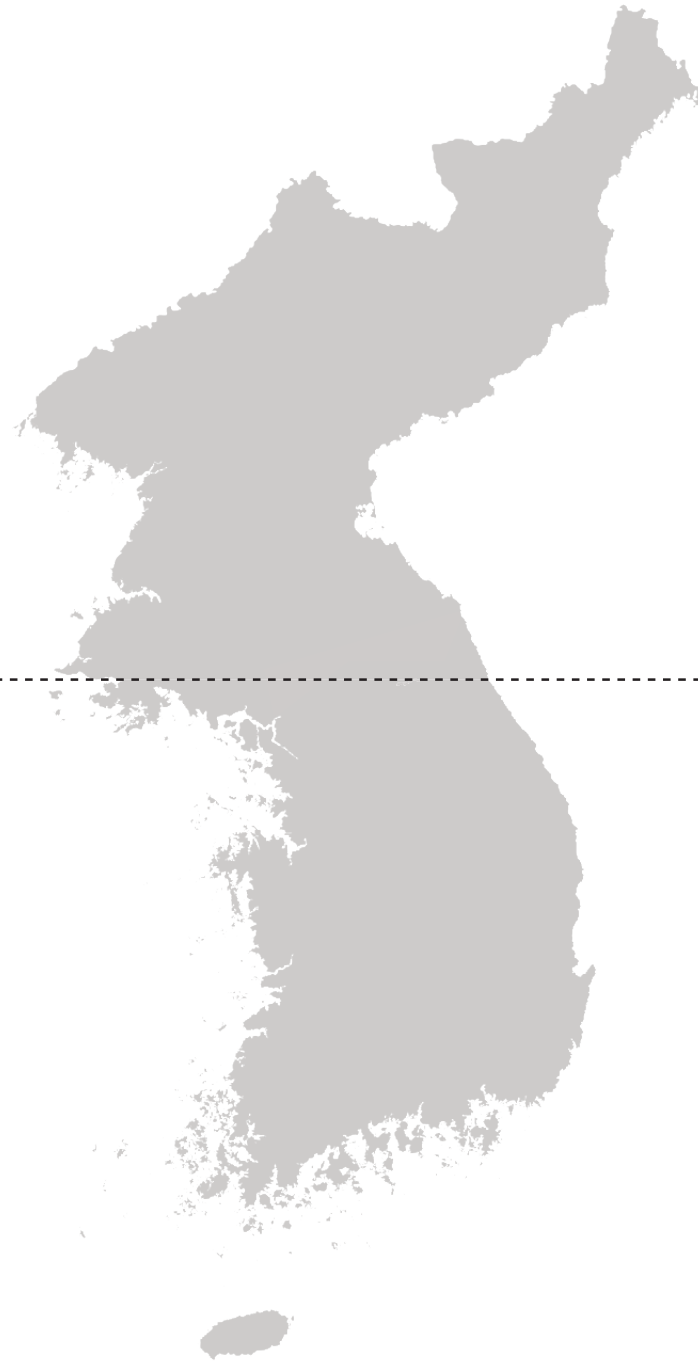
Japanese Empire surrendered to Allies of WWII, and Korea gained independence from Japan

1945

However under the U.N trusteeship,
Korea is divided again.

U.S.S.R. Occupation

U.S. Occupation



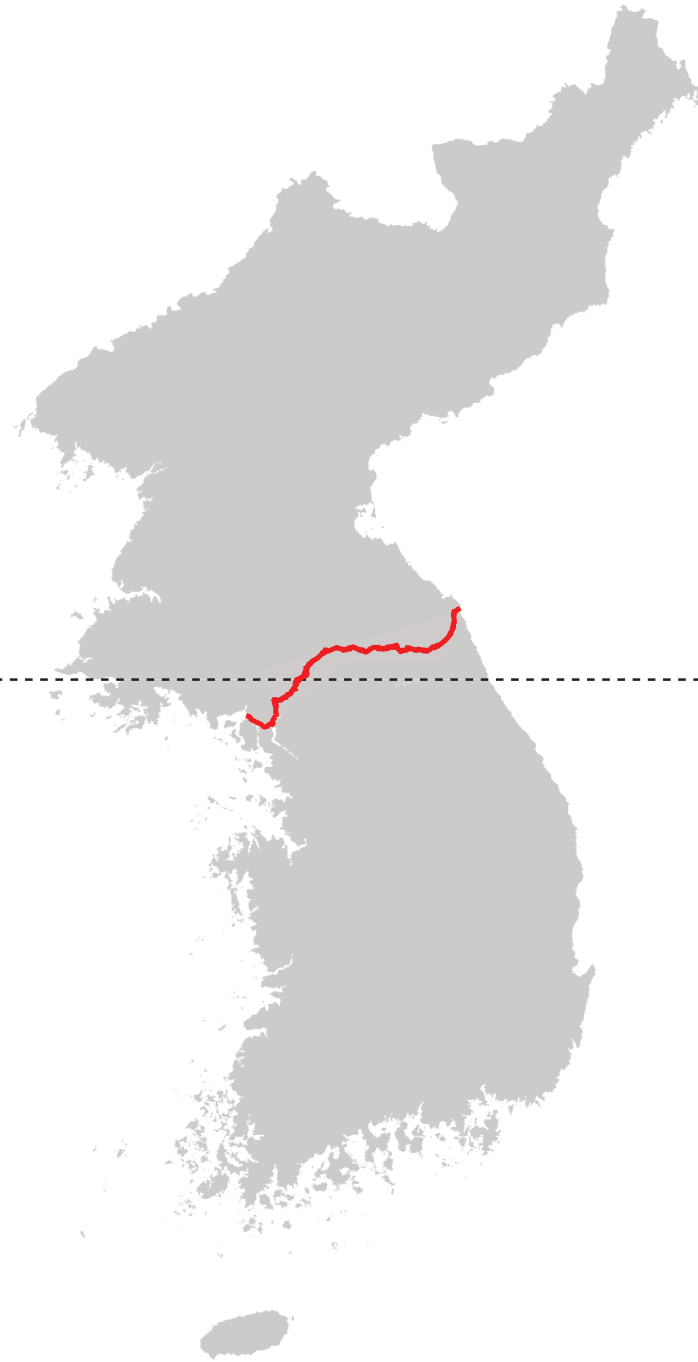
1948



Peoples Democratic Republic of Korea
(DPRK) established on 1948 September 09

Republic of Korea (ROK) established on
1948 July 17

1951-53



Truce Talks began from 1951 July.

The Armistice Agreement was
signed after two years of
negotiation and battles on 1953
July 26

DMZ Is An Isolated Barrier

North Korea

DMZ, is a border barrier that divides the North Korea and South Korea.
Anf the border beyond that strip is one of the most heavily militarized borders in the world.

Northern Limit Line

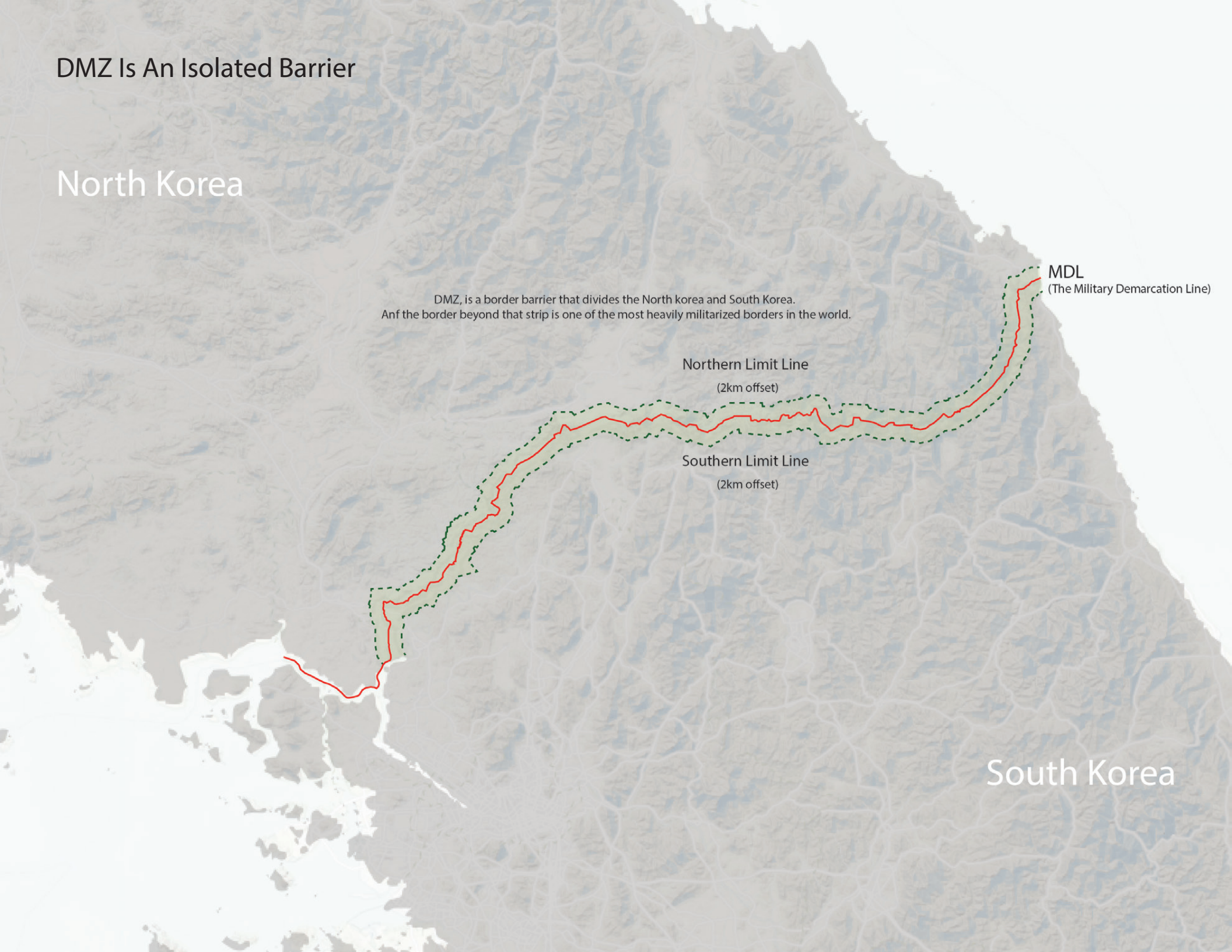
(2km offset)

Southern Limit Line

(2km offset)

MDL
(The Military Demarcation Line)

South Korea



North Korea

MDL
(The Military Demarcation Line)

Special Military Region

Civilian Control Area

Peace and Life Zone (PLZ)

South Korea



North Korea

There are estimated 2.2 million landmines
scattered within and around the DMZ

MDL
(The Military Demarcation Line)

South Korea



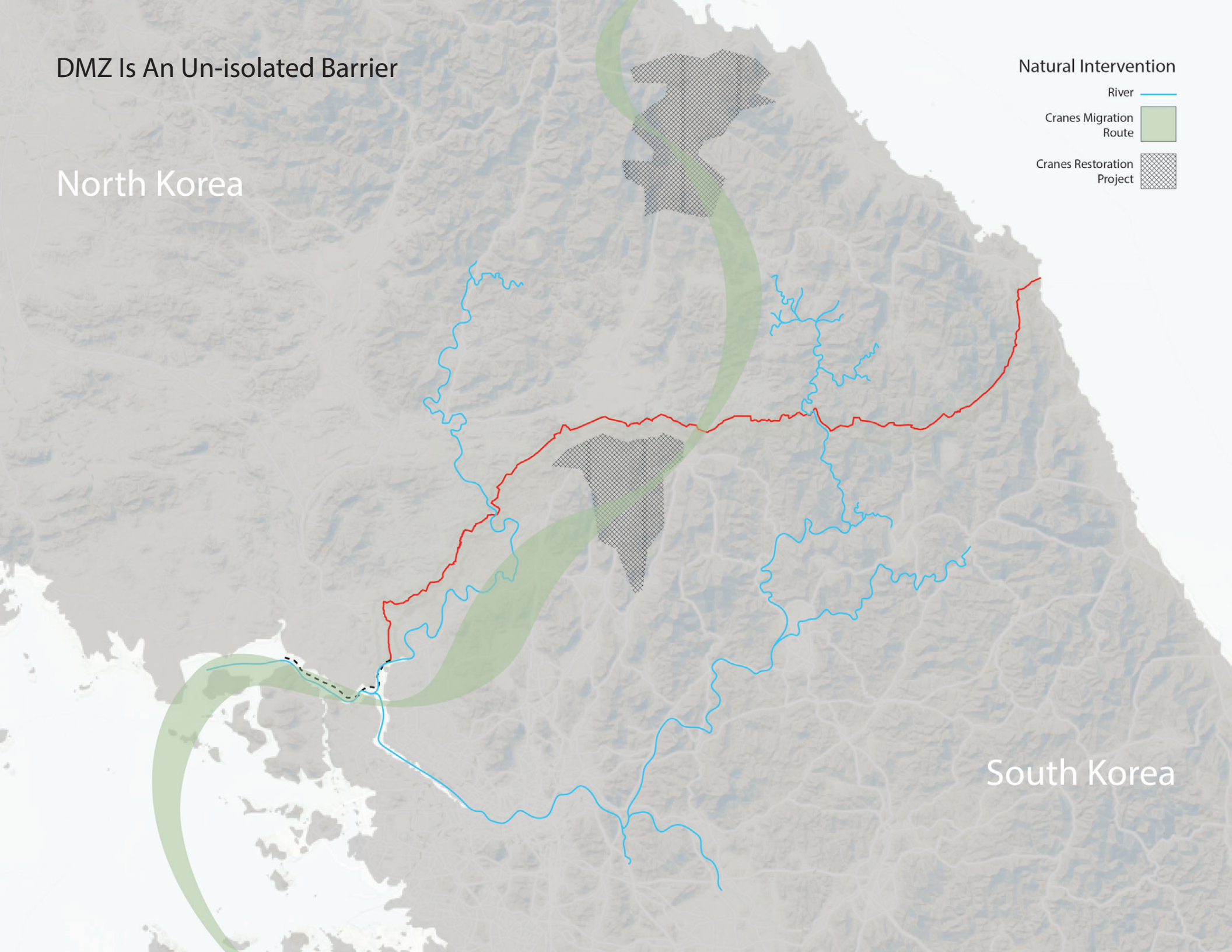
DMZ Is An Un-isolated Barrier

North Korea

Natural Intervention

- River
- Cranes Migration Route
- Cranes Restoration Project

South Korea



North Korea

Manual Intervention

New DMZ

Old DMZ

Special Location

The DMZ is now 43% less
than the original footprint because of military transgressions

Mt. Kumgang
Tourist Resort
1998-2008

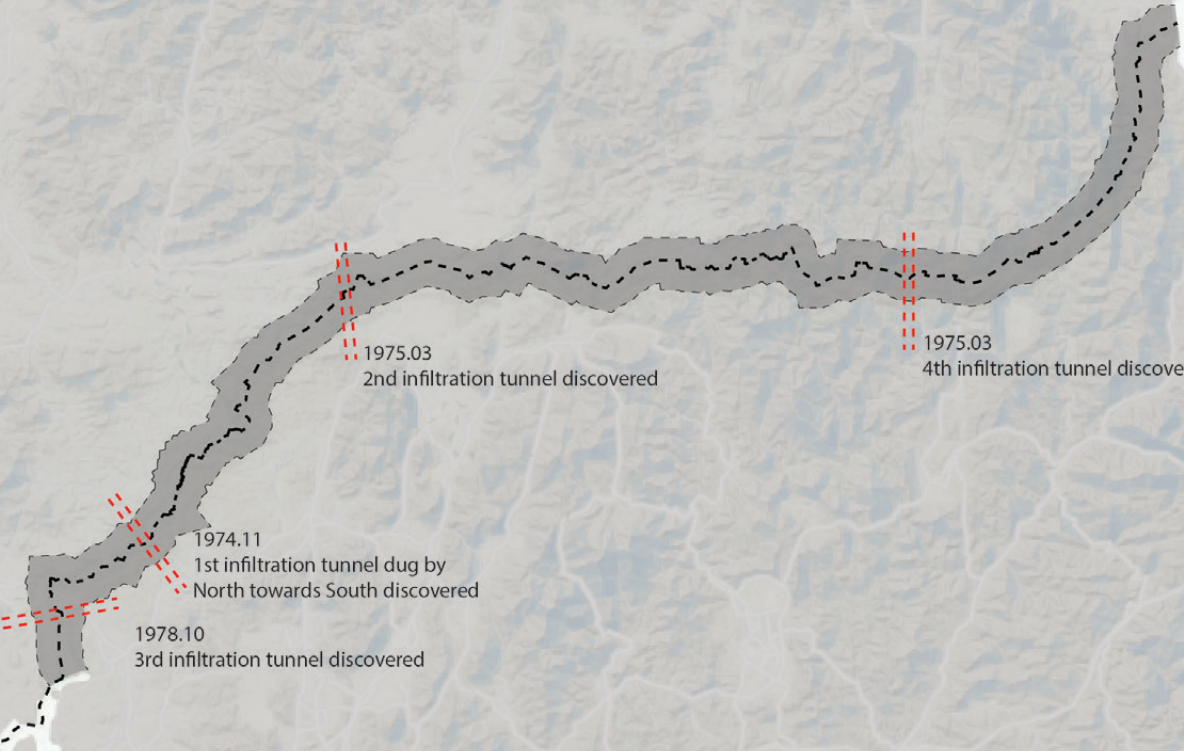
Joint Security Area
Panmunjom

Kaesong Industrail Complex
2002-2016

South Korea



North Korea



1975.03
2nd infiltration tunnel discovered

1975.03
4th infiltration tunnel discovered

1974.11
1st infiltration tunnel dug by
North towards South discovered

1978.10
3rd infiltration tunnel discovered

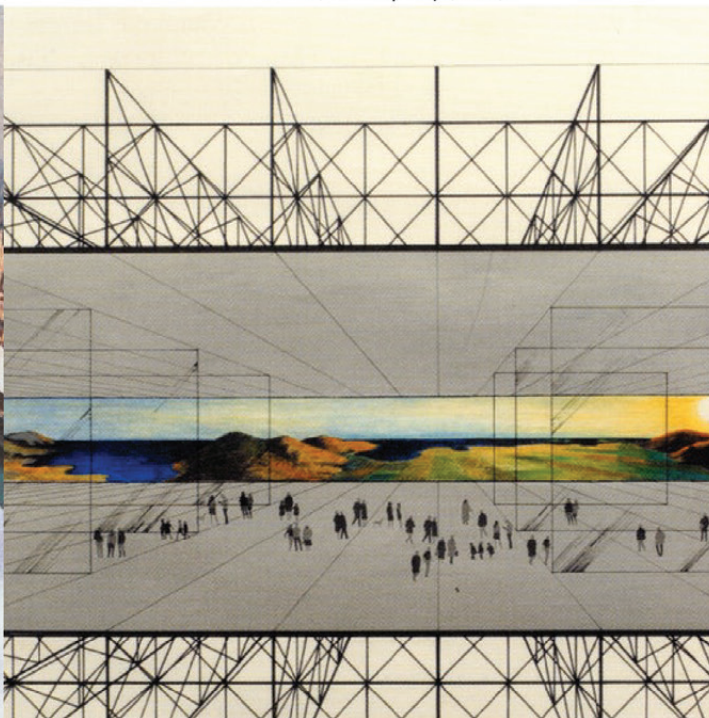
South Korea

PRECEDENT

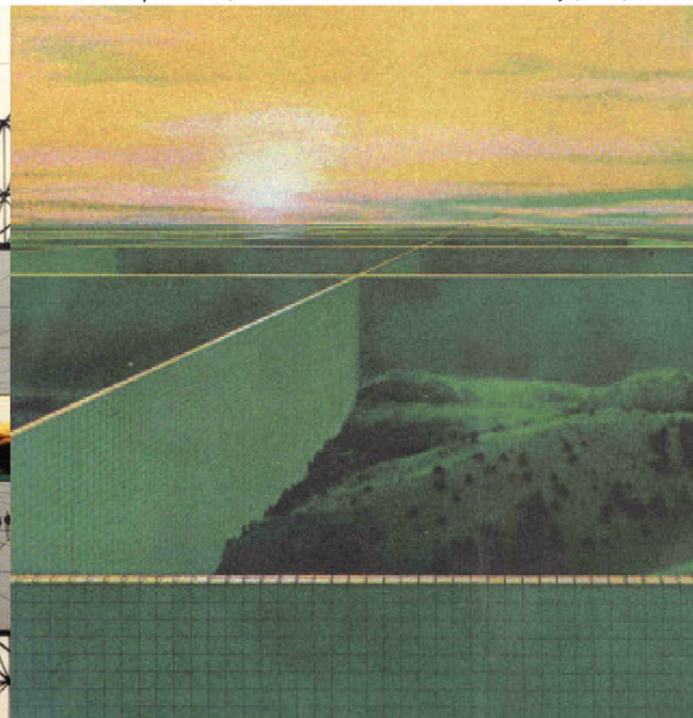
Superstudio, Continuous Monument (1969)



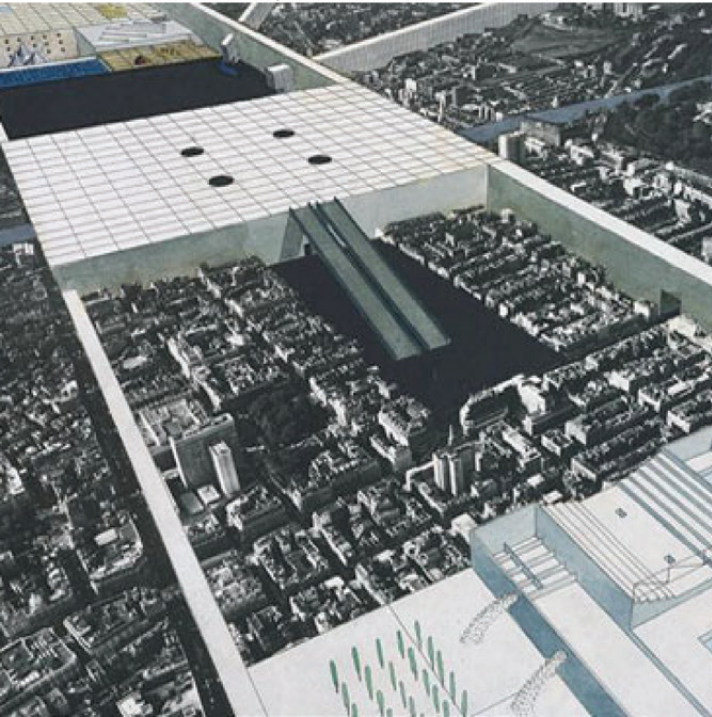
Archizoom, No-Stop City (1969)



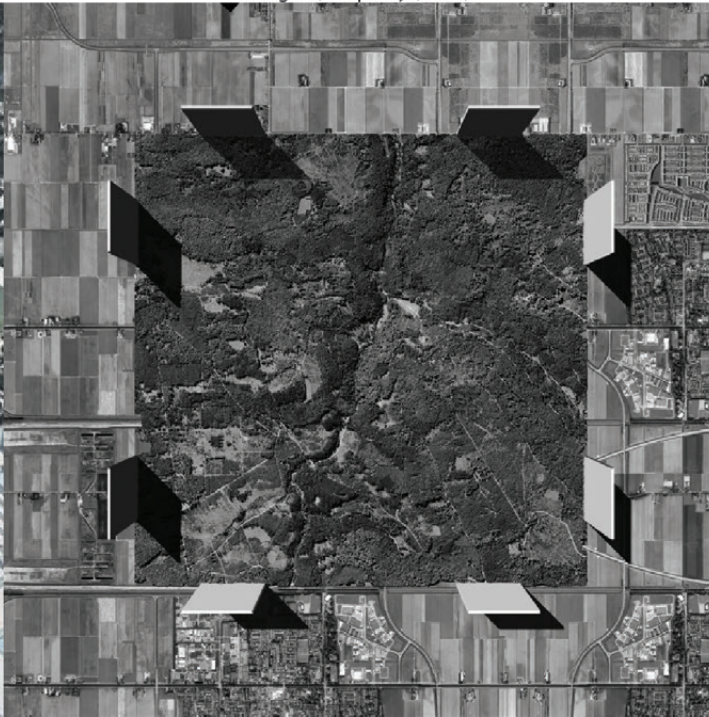
Superstudio, The Twelve Ideal Cities: 2000 ton City (1971)



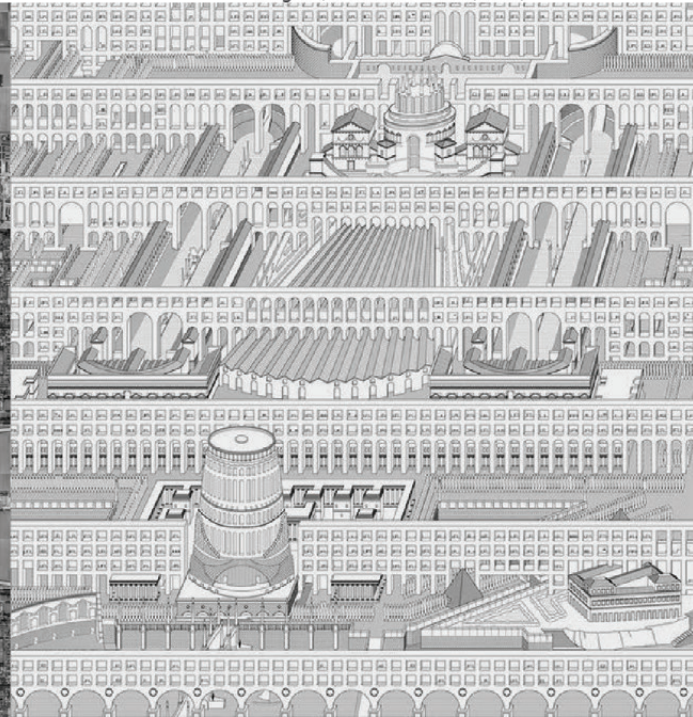
Rem Koolhaas, Exodus,
or the Voluntary Prisoners of Architecture (1972)



Dogma, Stop City (2007)



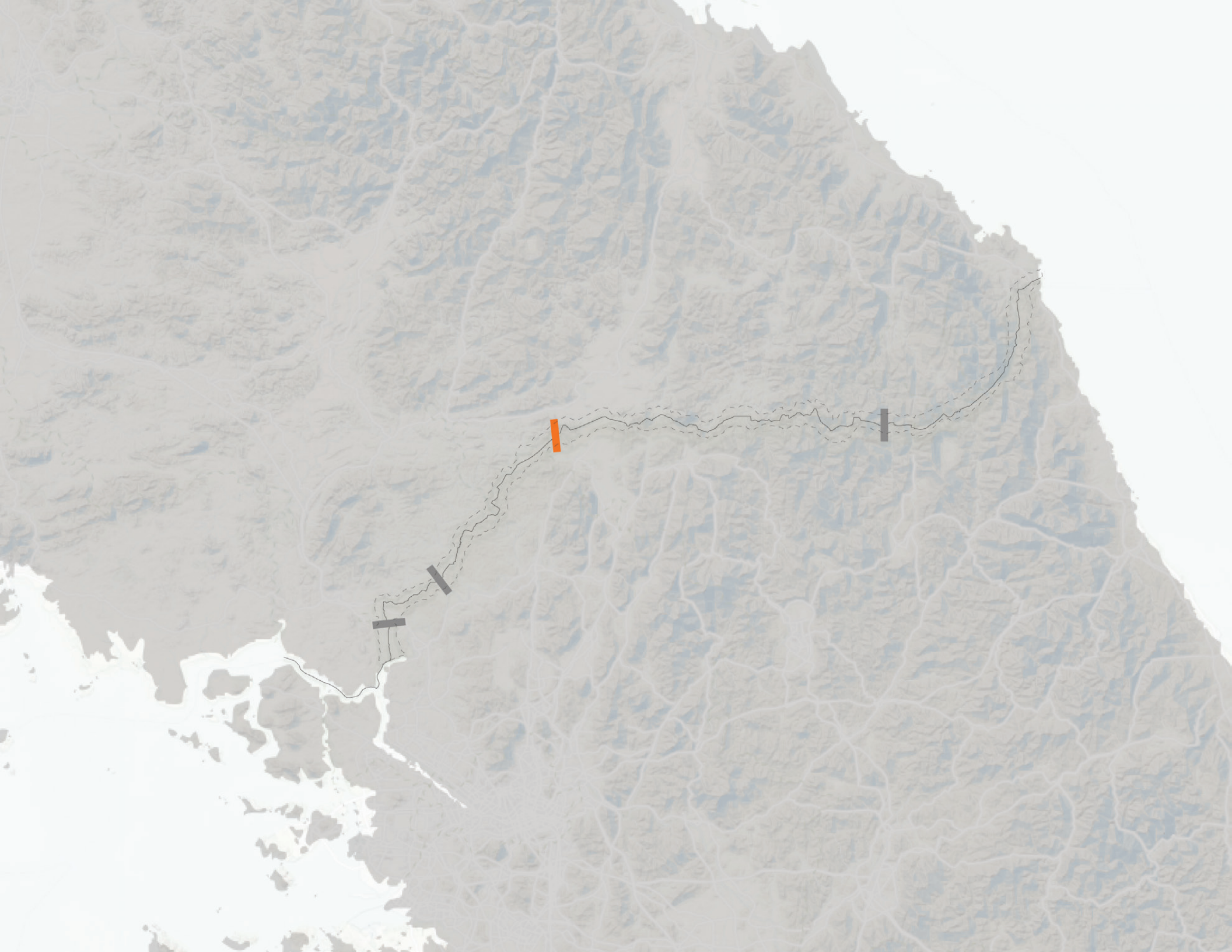
Dogma, A Field of Walls (2012)



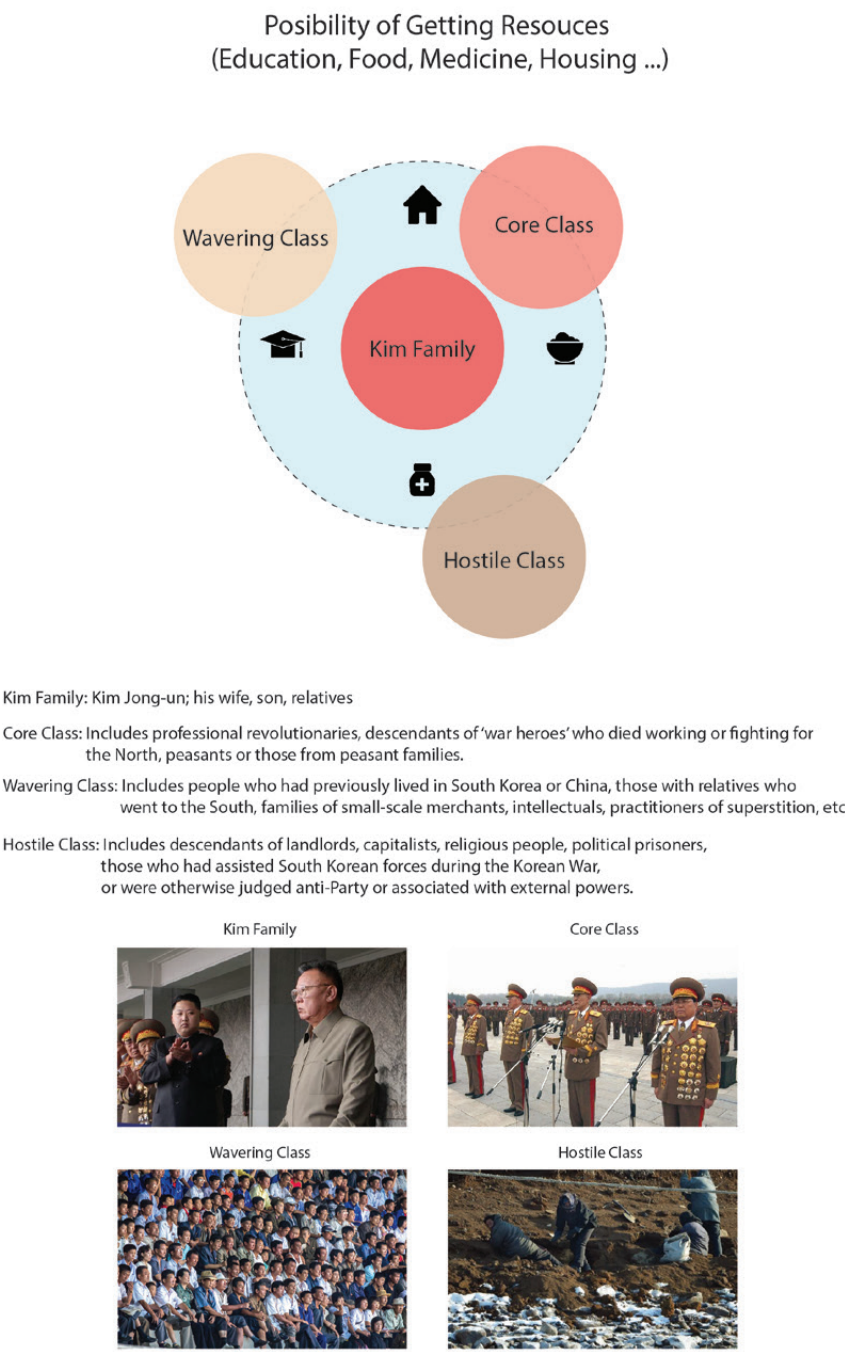
SITE



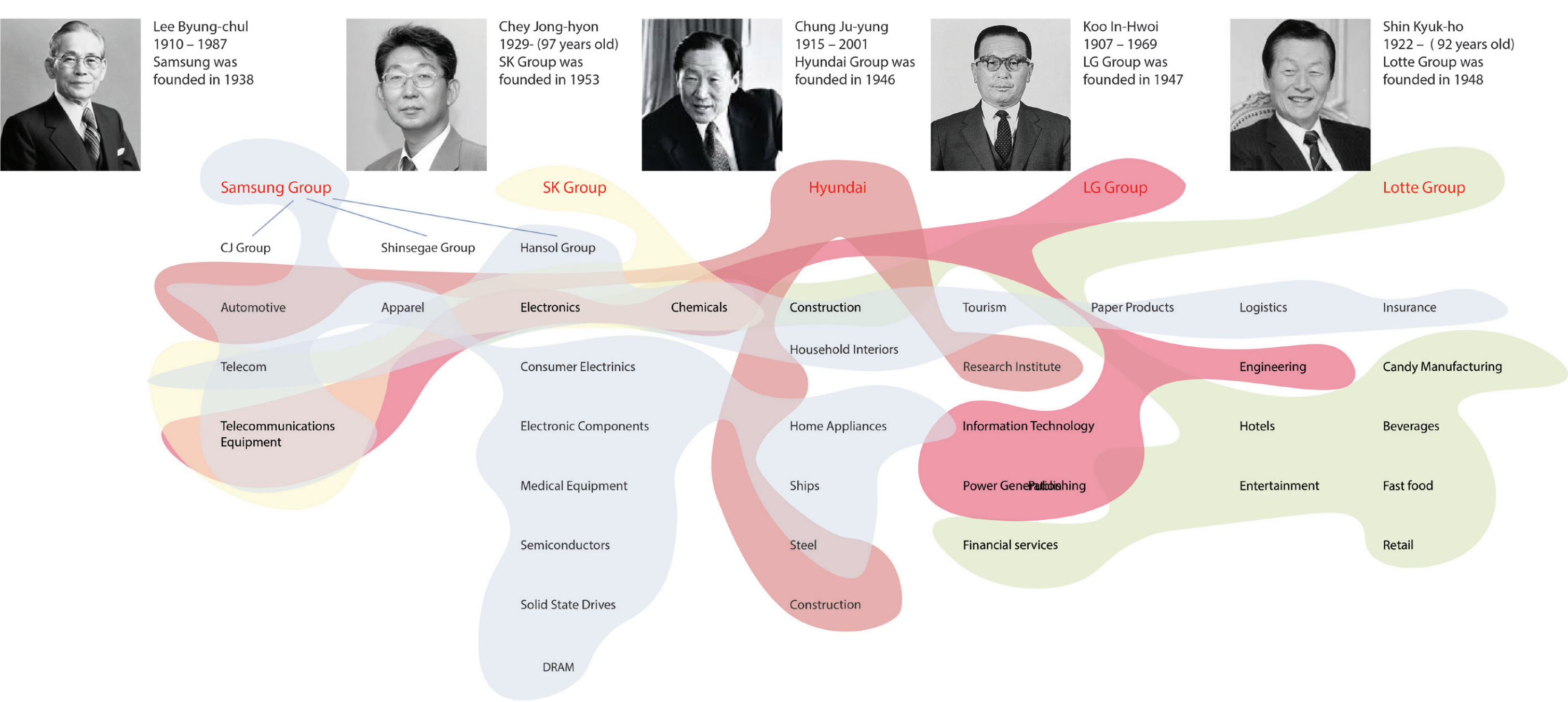
BRIDGE OF EQUALITY



North Korea - Songbun (Ascribed Status)

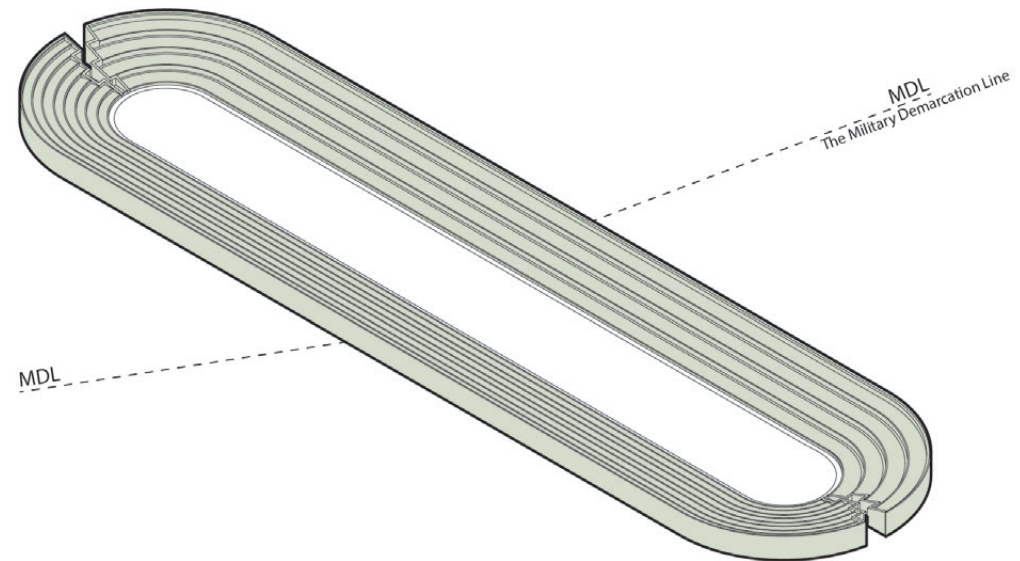
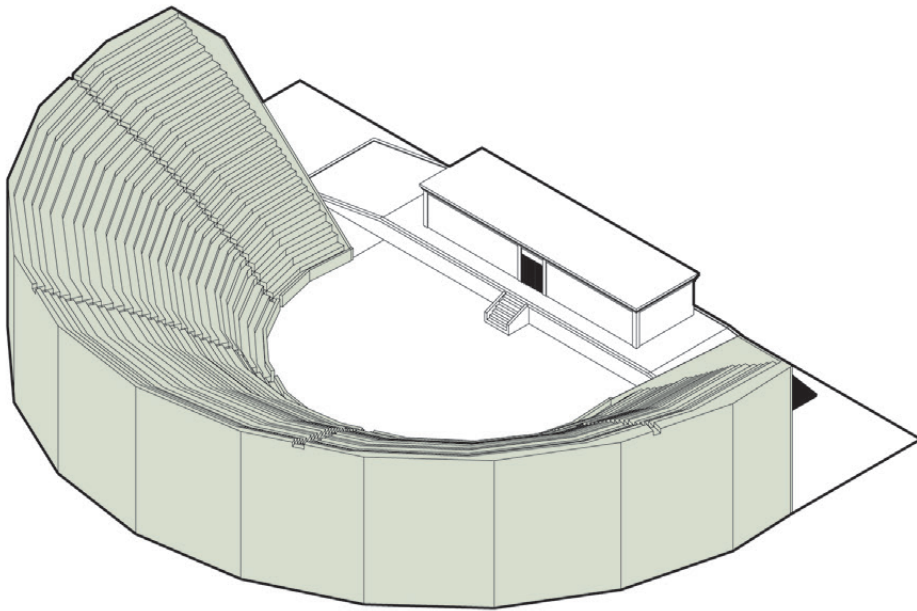


South Korea - Chaebol (Money Power, Family)



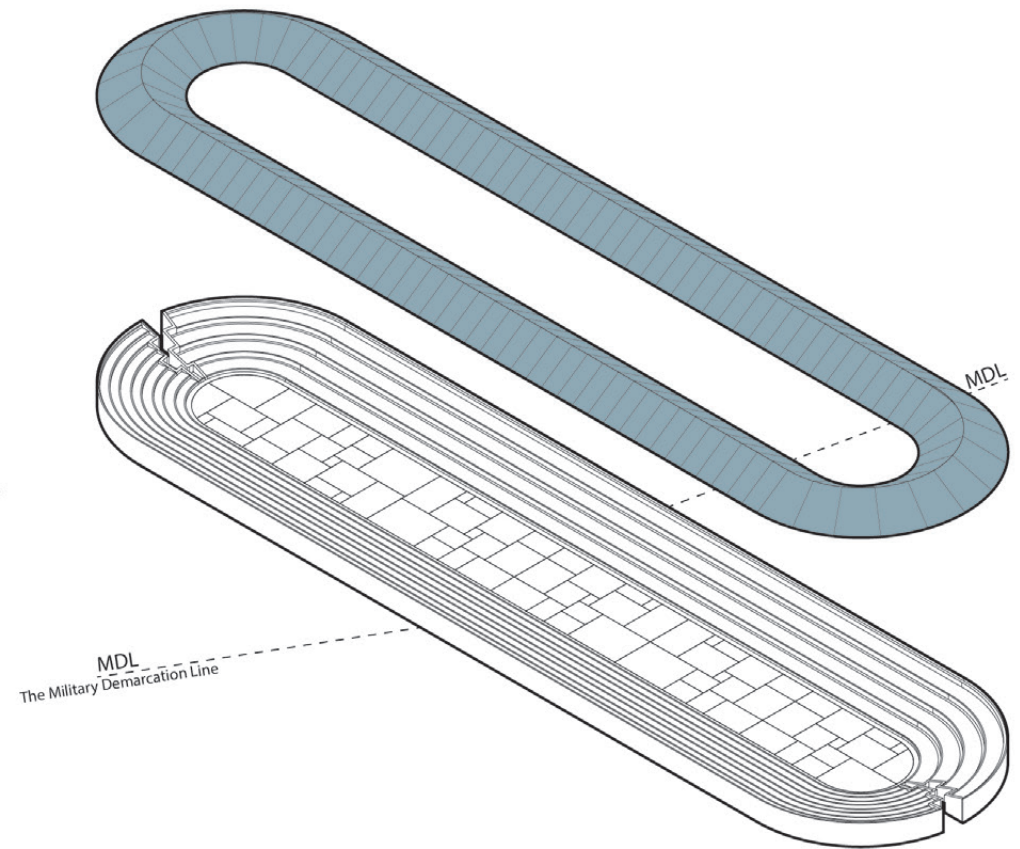
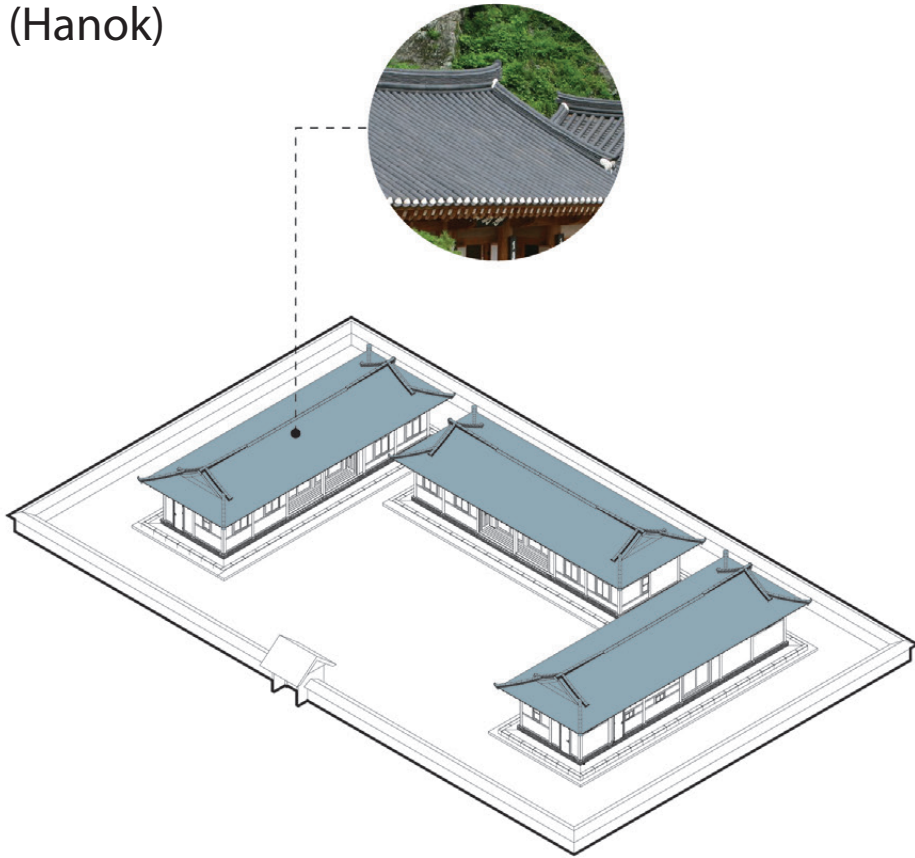
Form

- Ancient Greek Theatre



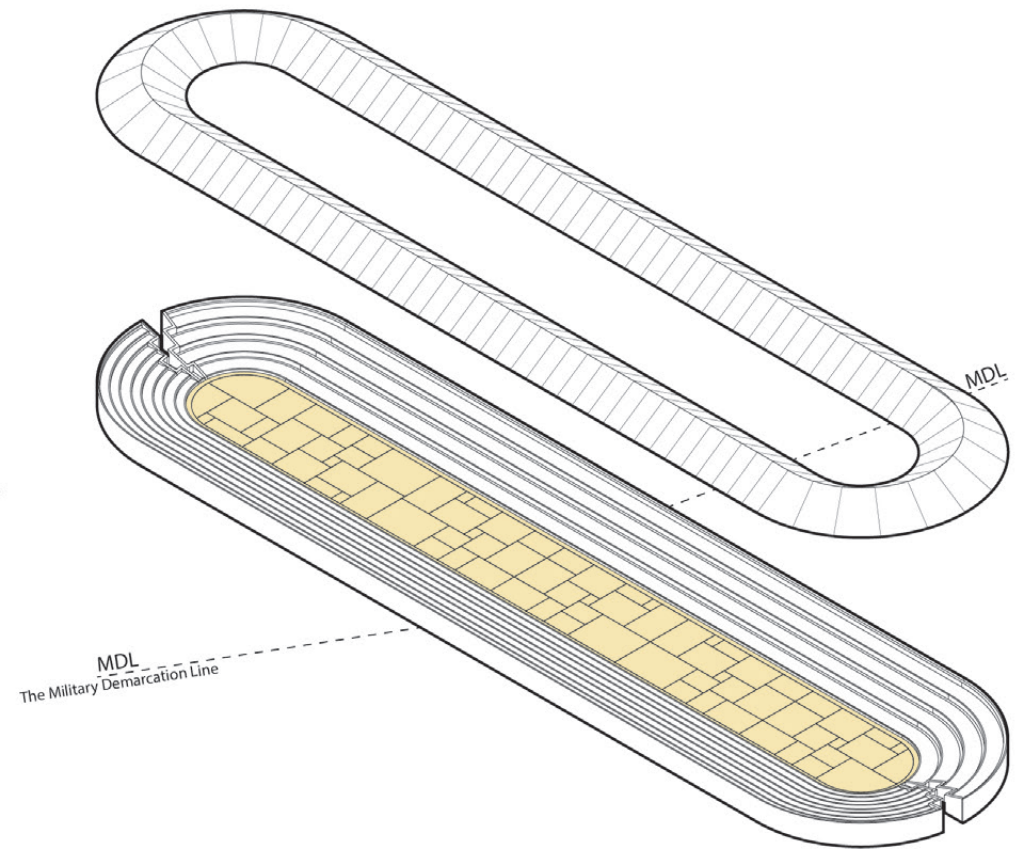
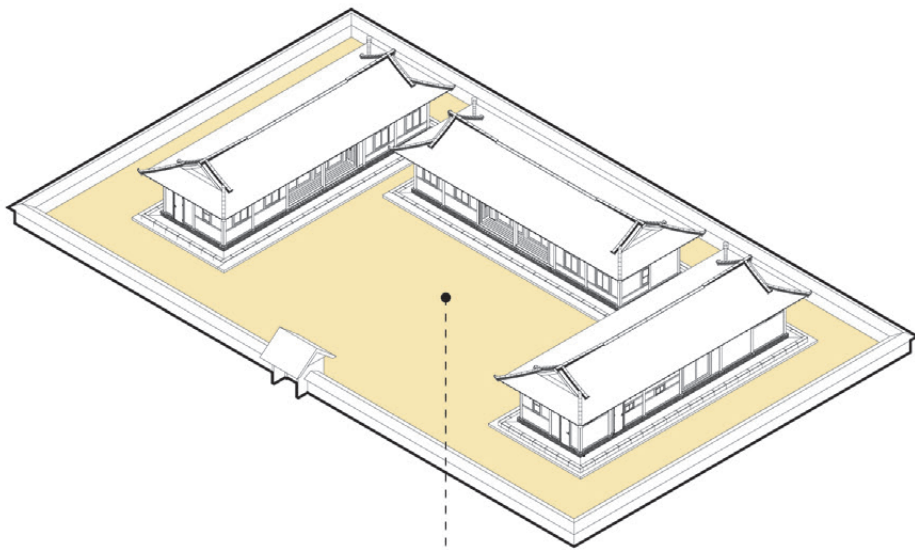
Form

- Traditional Korean House
(Hanok)



Form

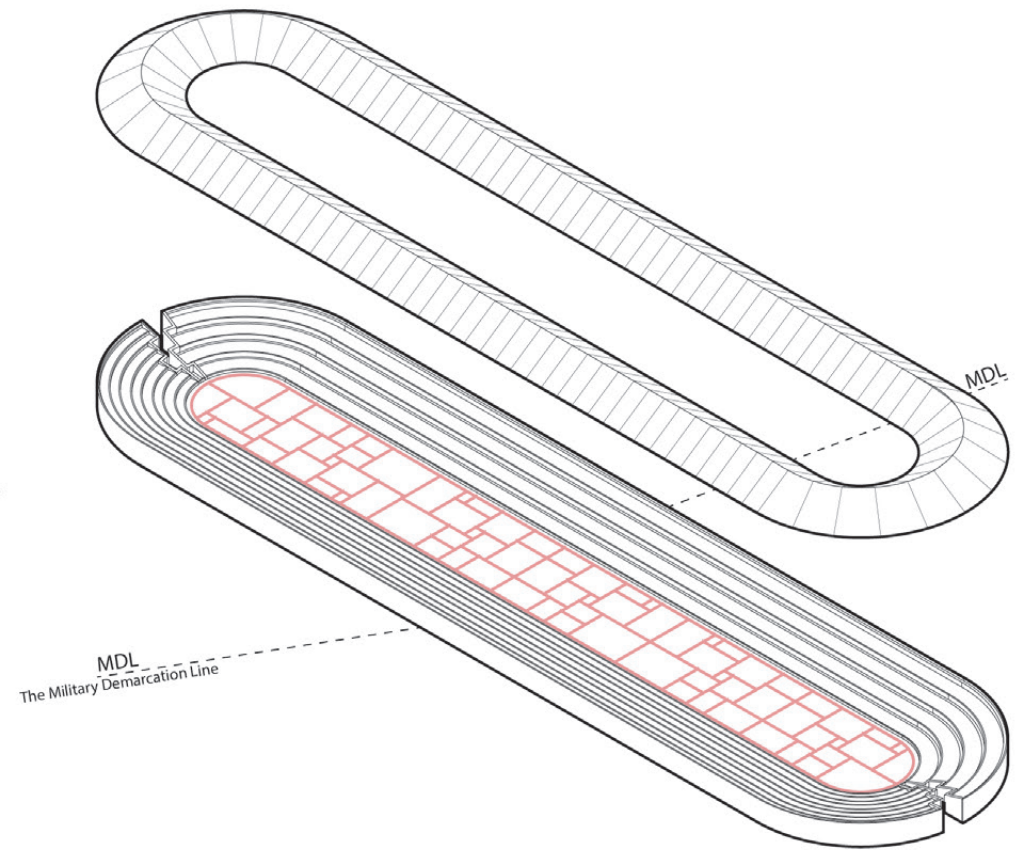
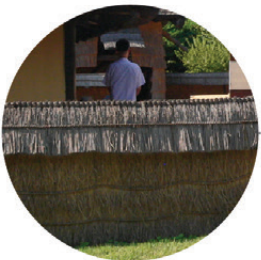
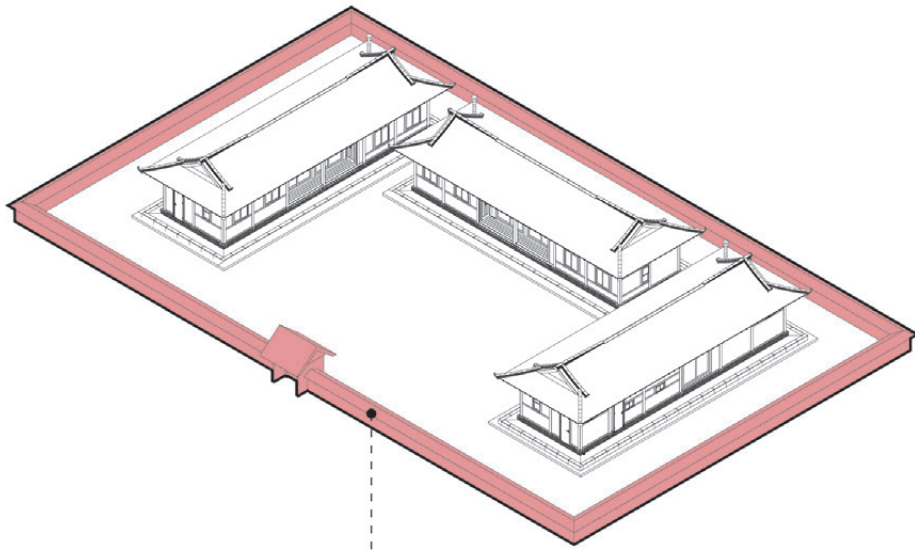
- Traditional Korean House
(Hanok)



Playground

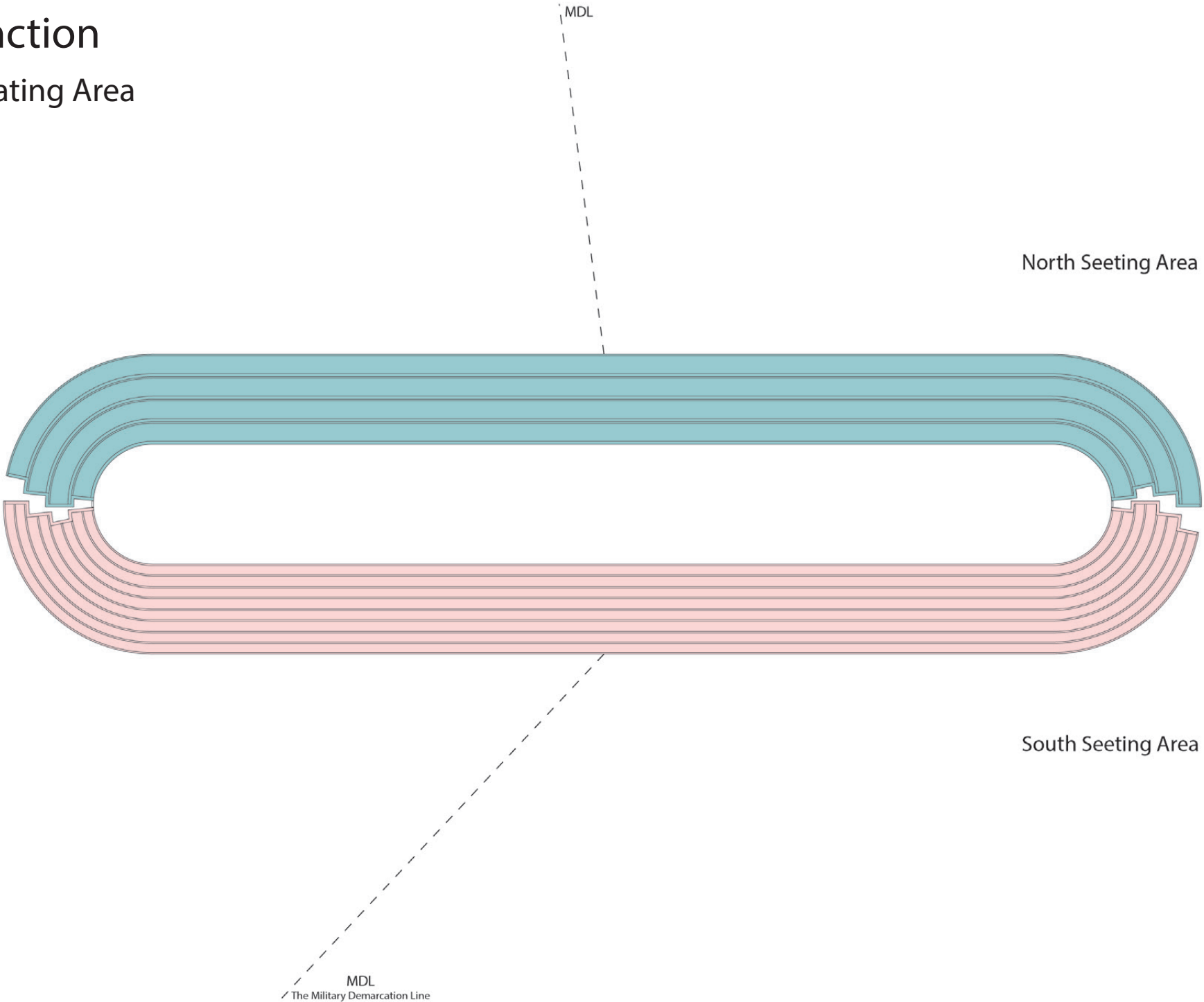
Form

- Traditional Korean House
(Hanok)



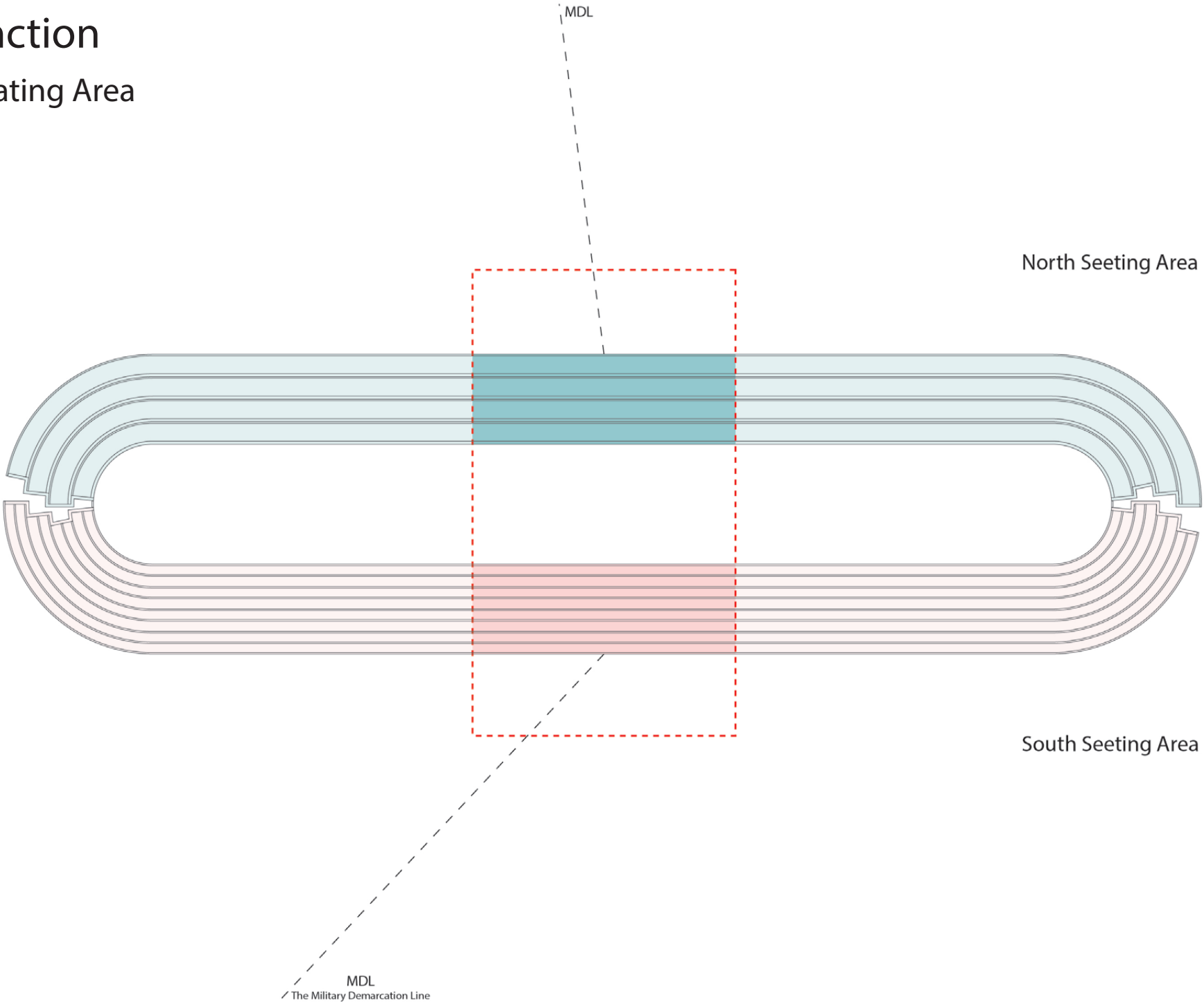
Function

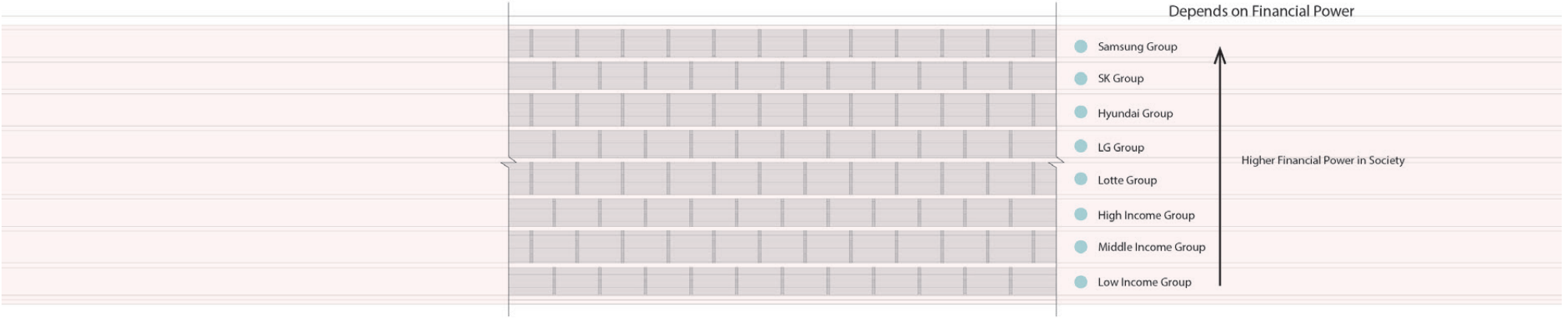
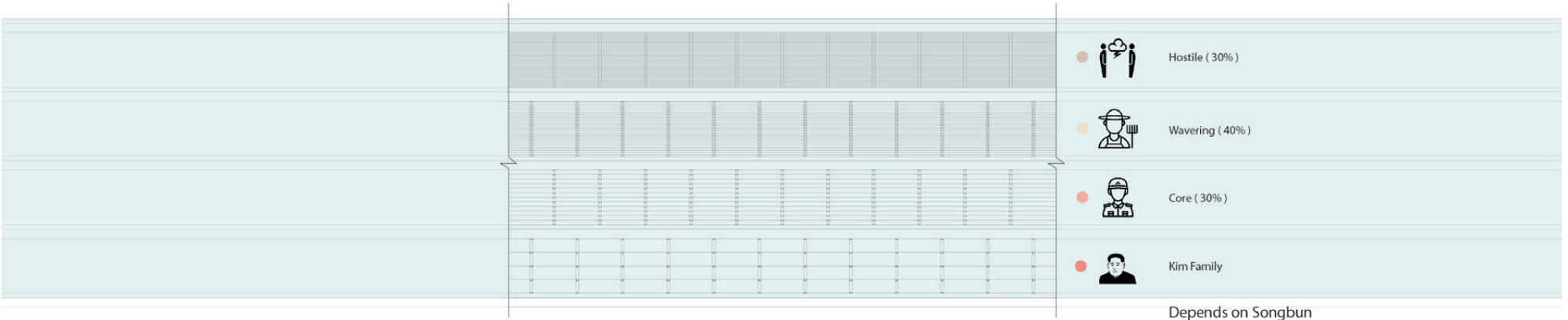
- Seating Area



Function

- Seating Area

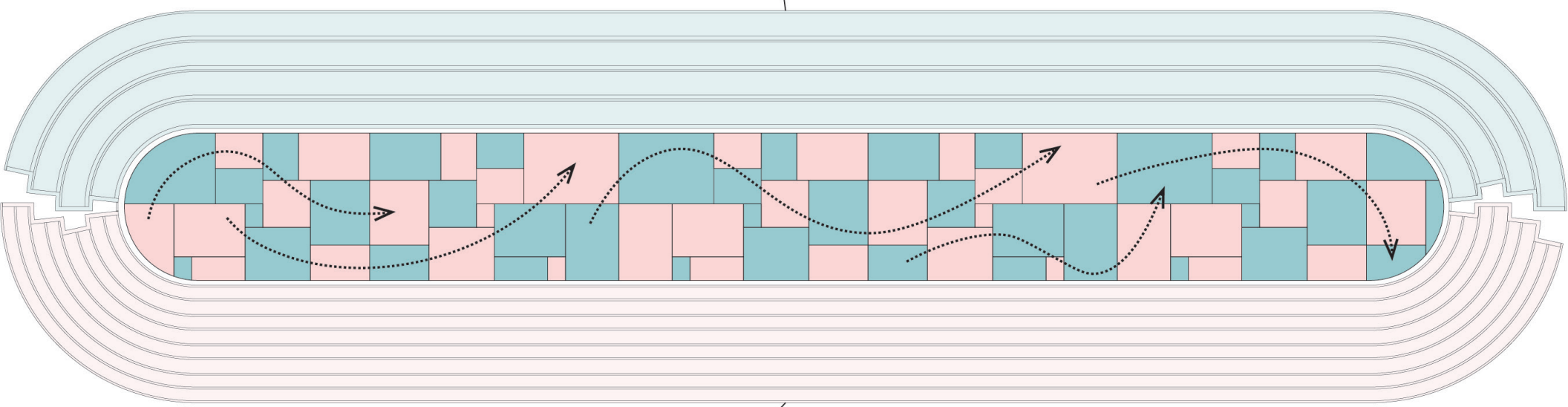




Program

- Playground

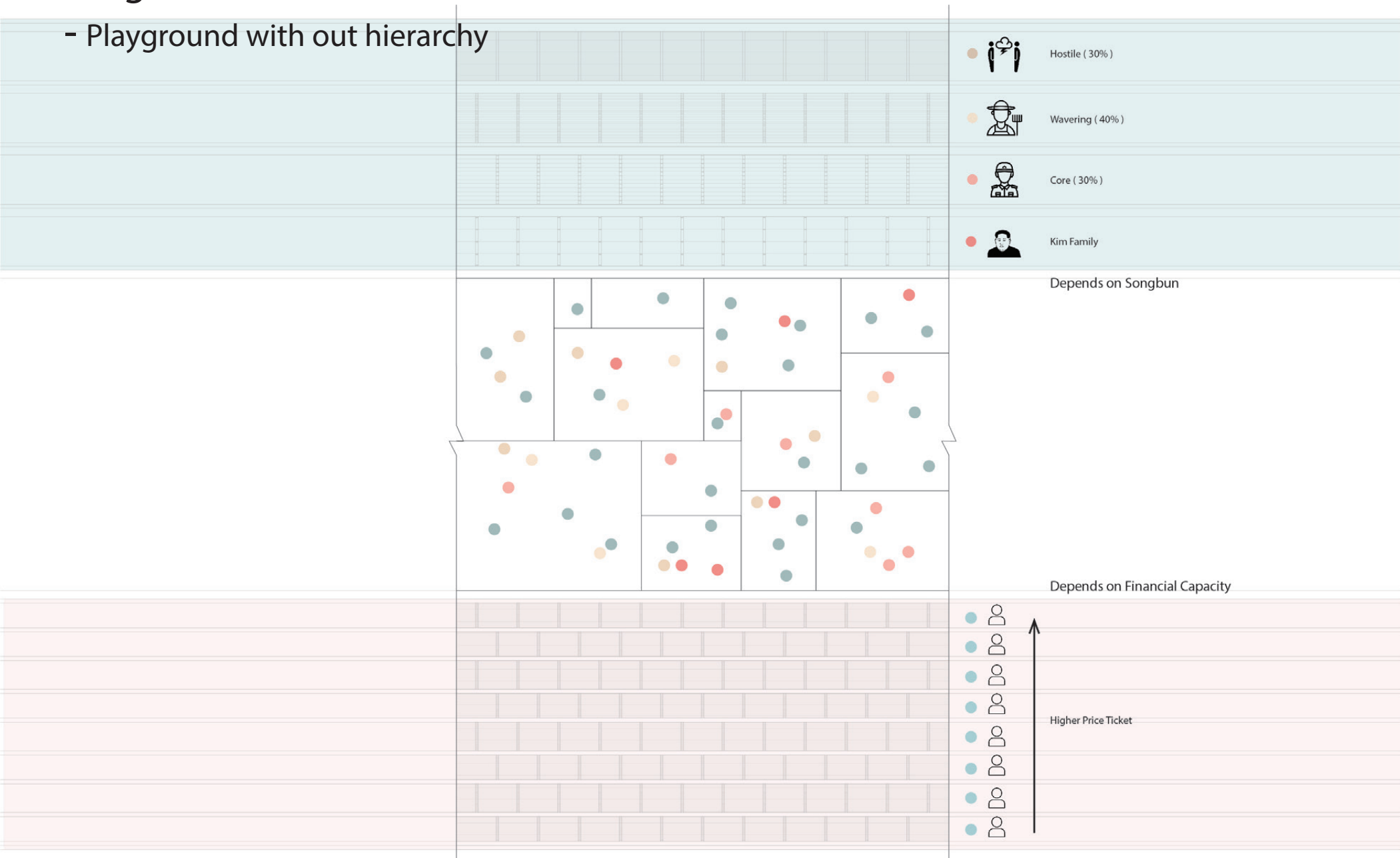
MDL
The Military Demarcation Line



North Korea Courtyard Location

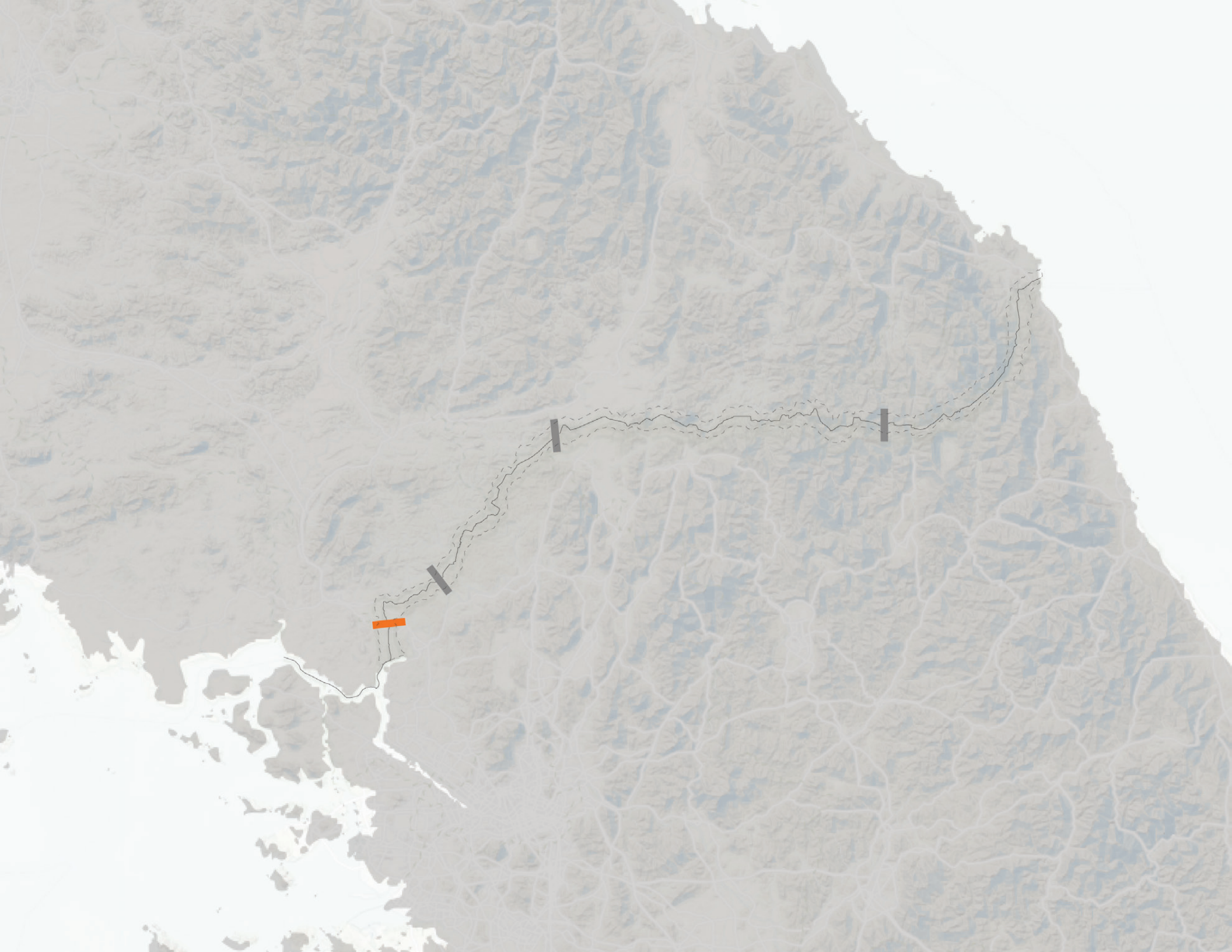
South Korea Courtyard Location

- Playground with out hierarchy



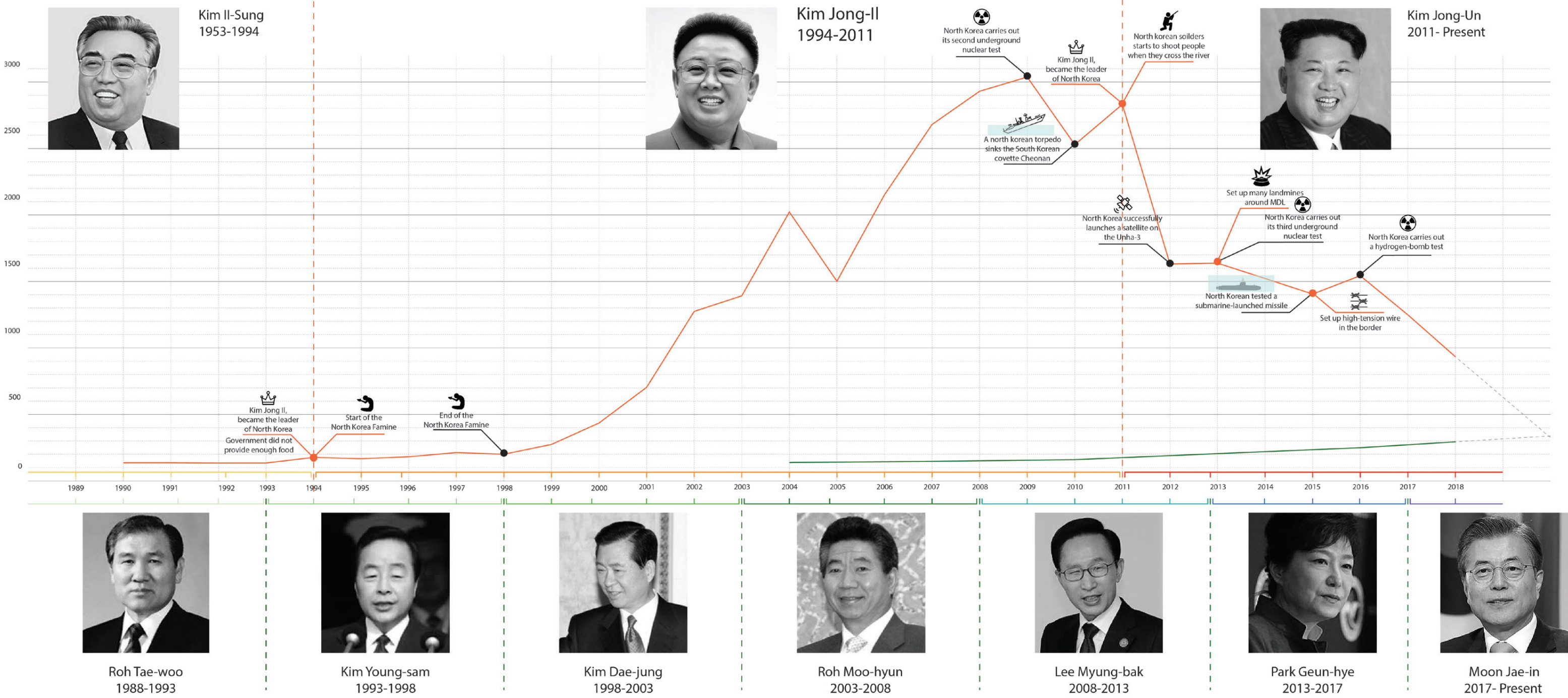


BRIDGE OF NO RETURN



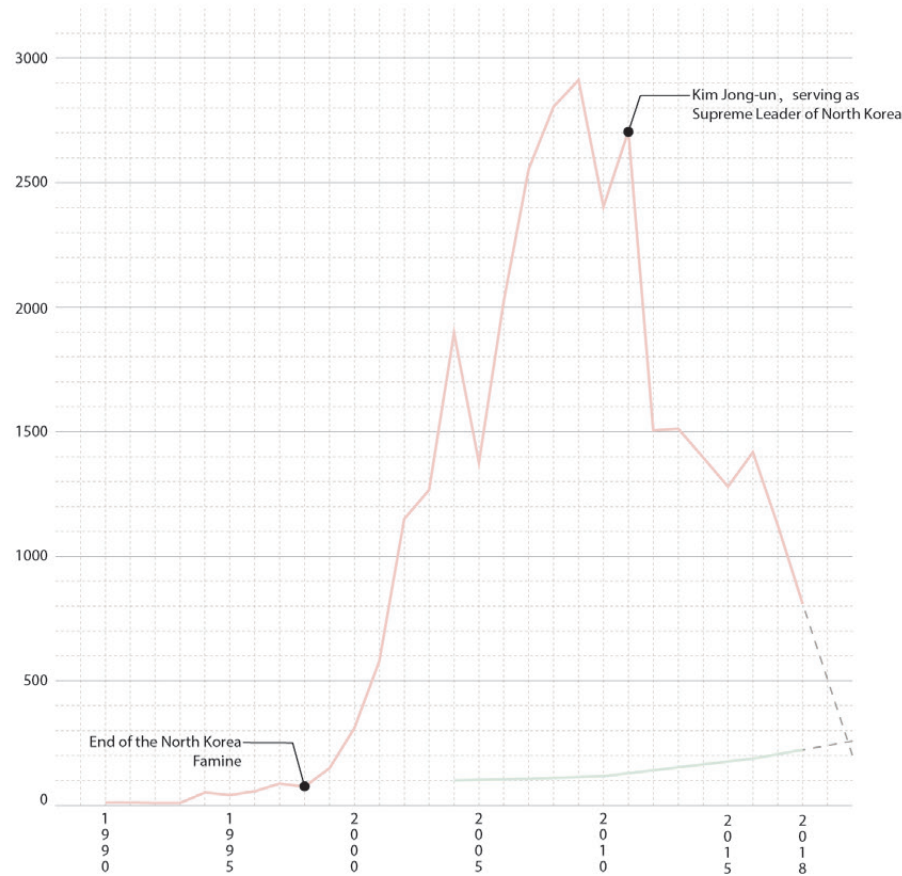


The Amount of North Korean Defectors Arriving in South Korea and Its background

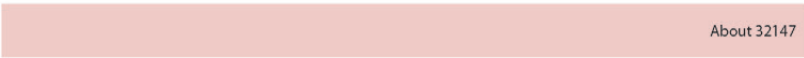


Demanding of Exchanging Nationality

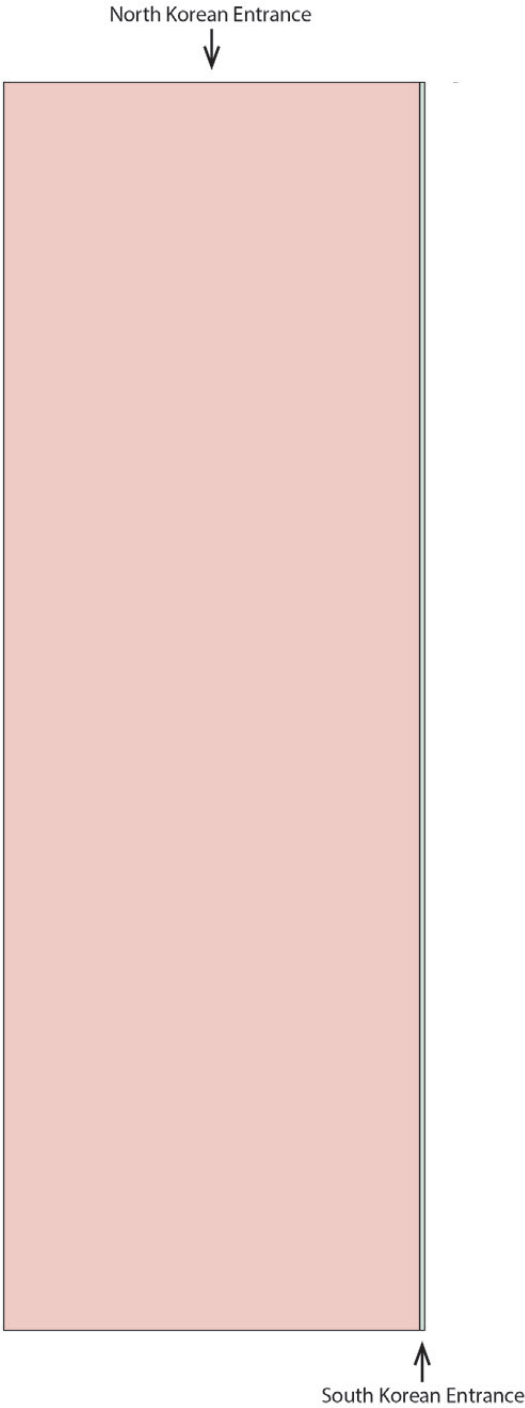
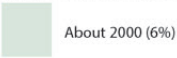
Number of North Korean Defectors Arriving in South Korea Anually



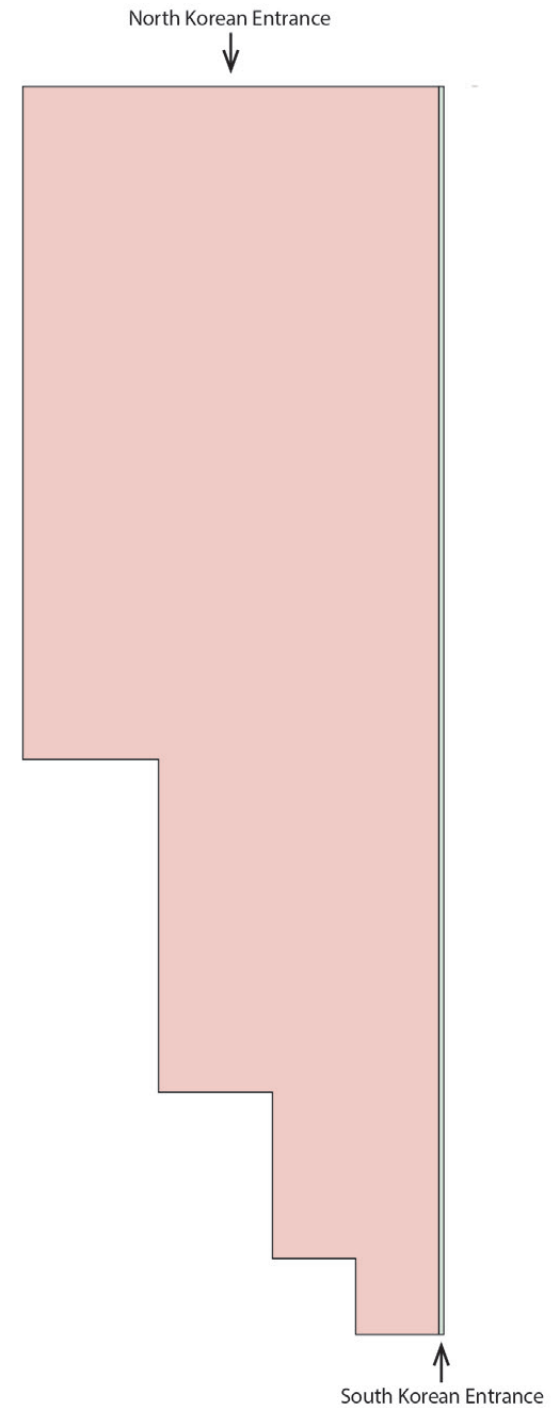
North Korean Defectors Settled in South Korea



North Korean Defectors Left from South Korea



"Longest Distance"

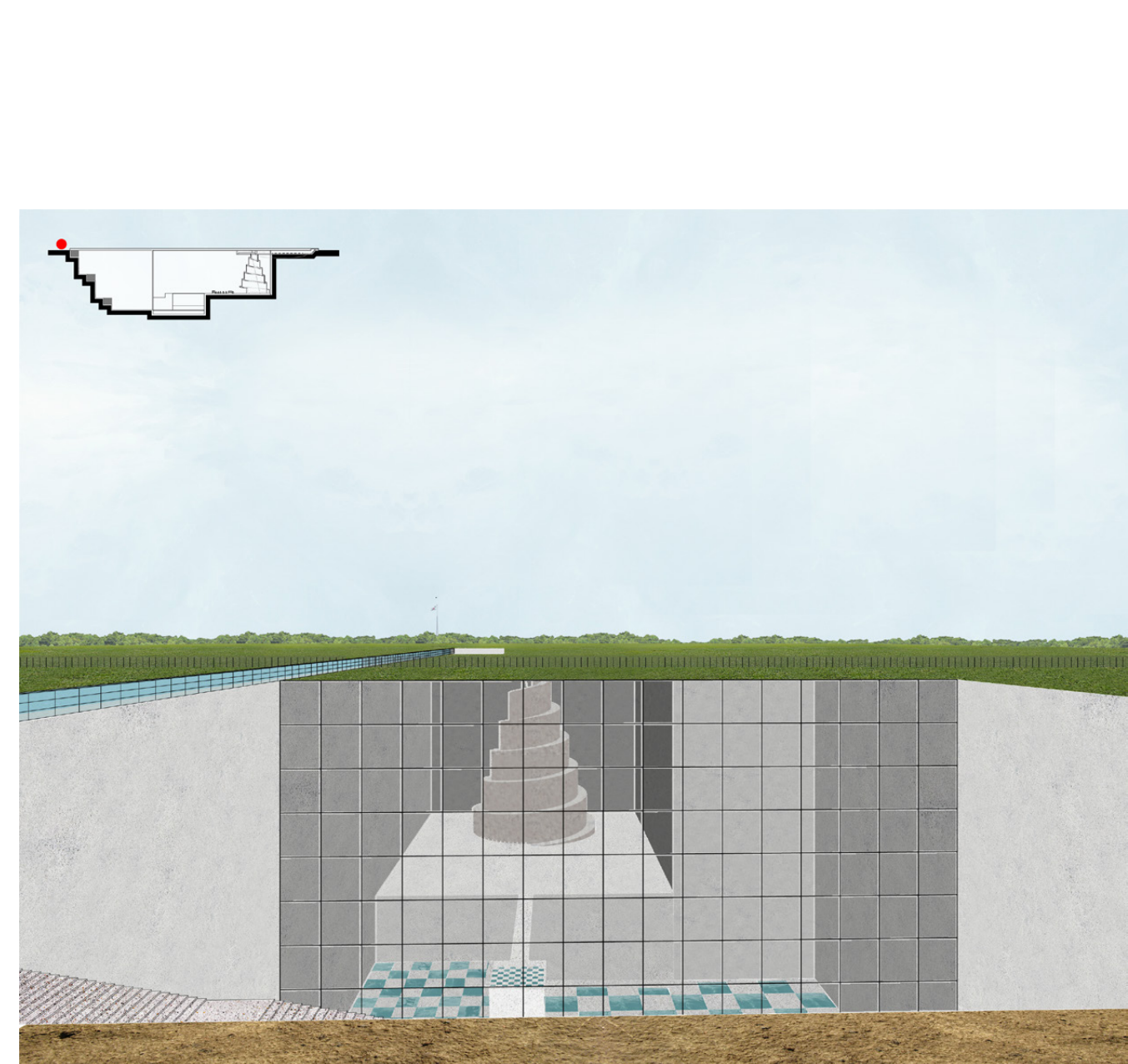
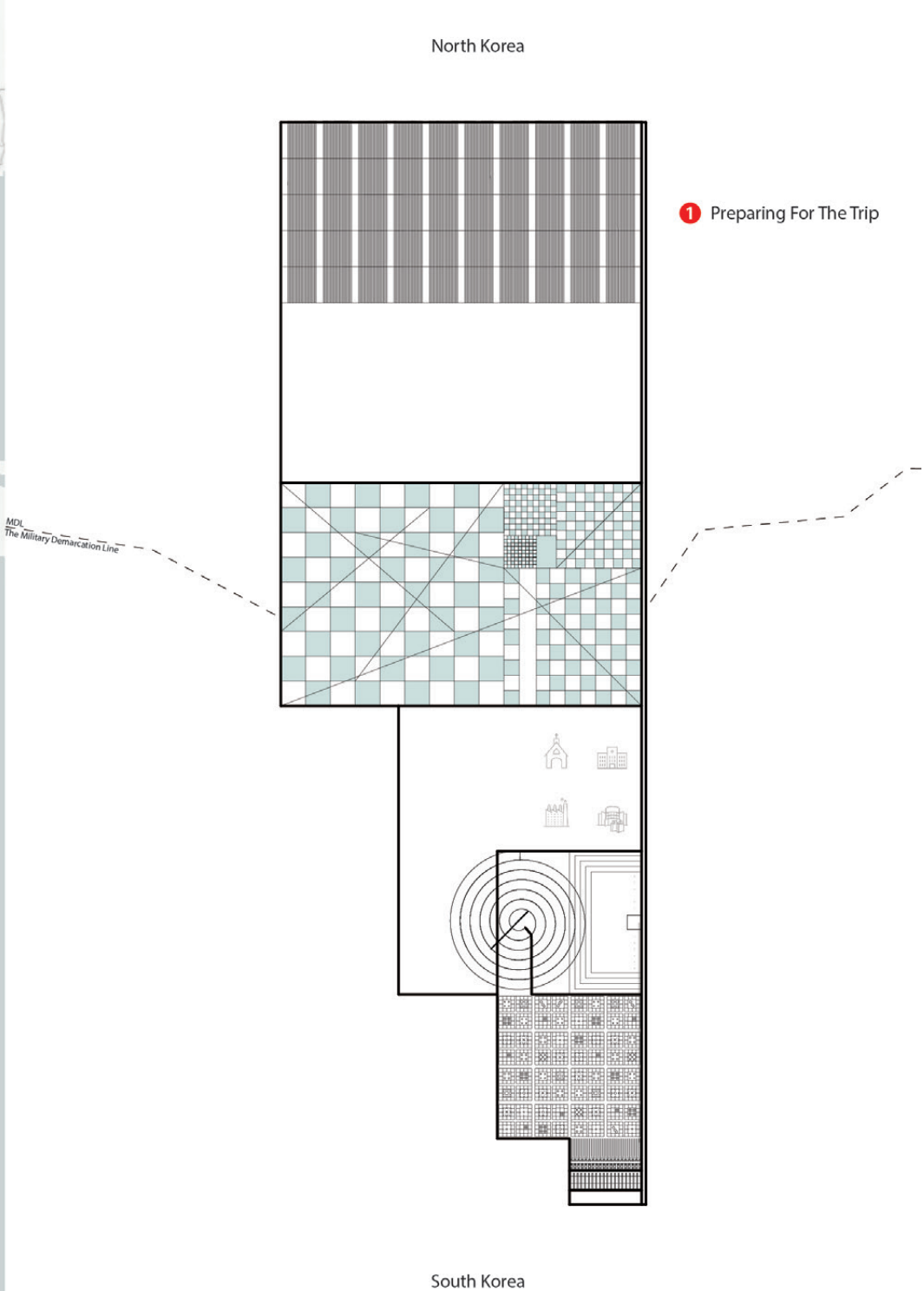




North Korean soldiers walks on a bund from the North Korean side of the Yalu River, as a Chinese boat sails by with tourists, near Sinuiju in North Korea and Dandong in China's Liaoning Province. April 13, 2017



A North Korean soldier stands next to a watchtower on the banks of the Yalu river near Sinuiju, opposite the Chinese border city of Dandong. April 14, 2017.



Overlook

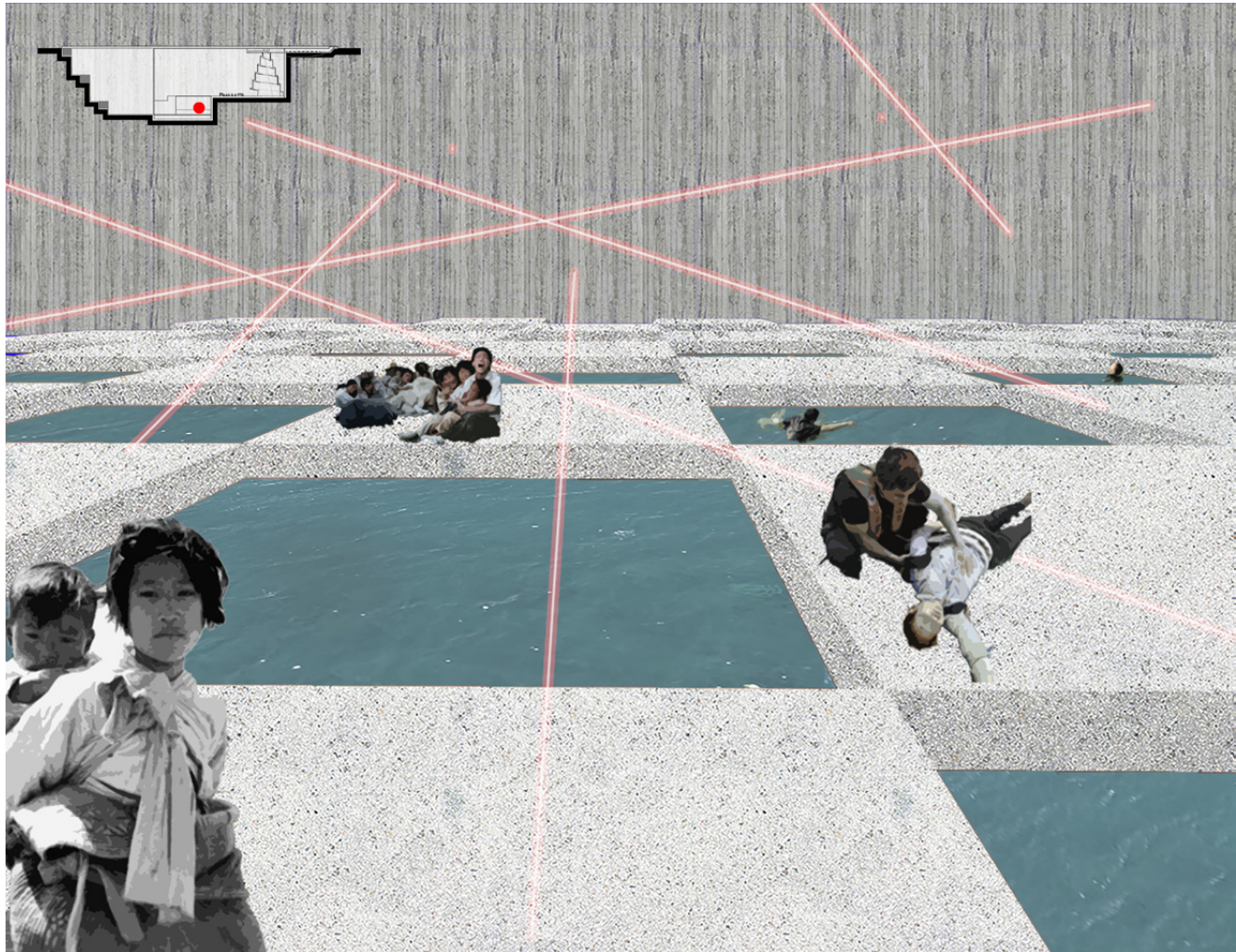
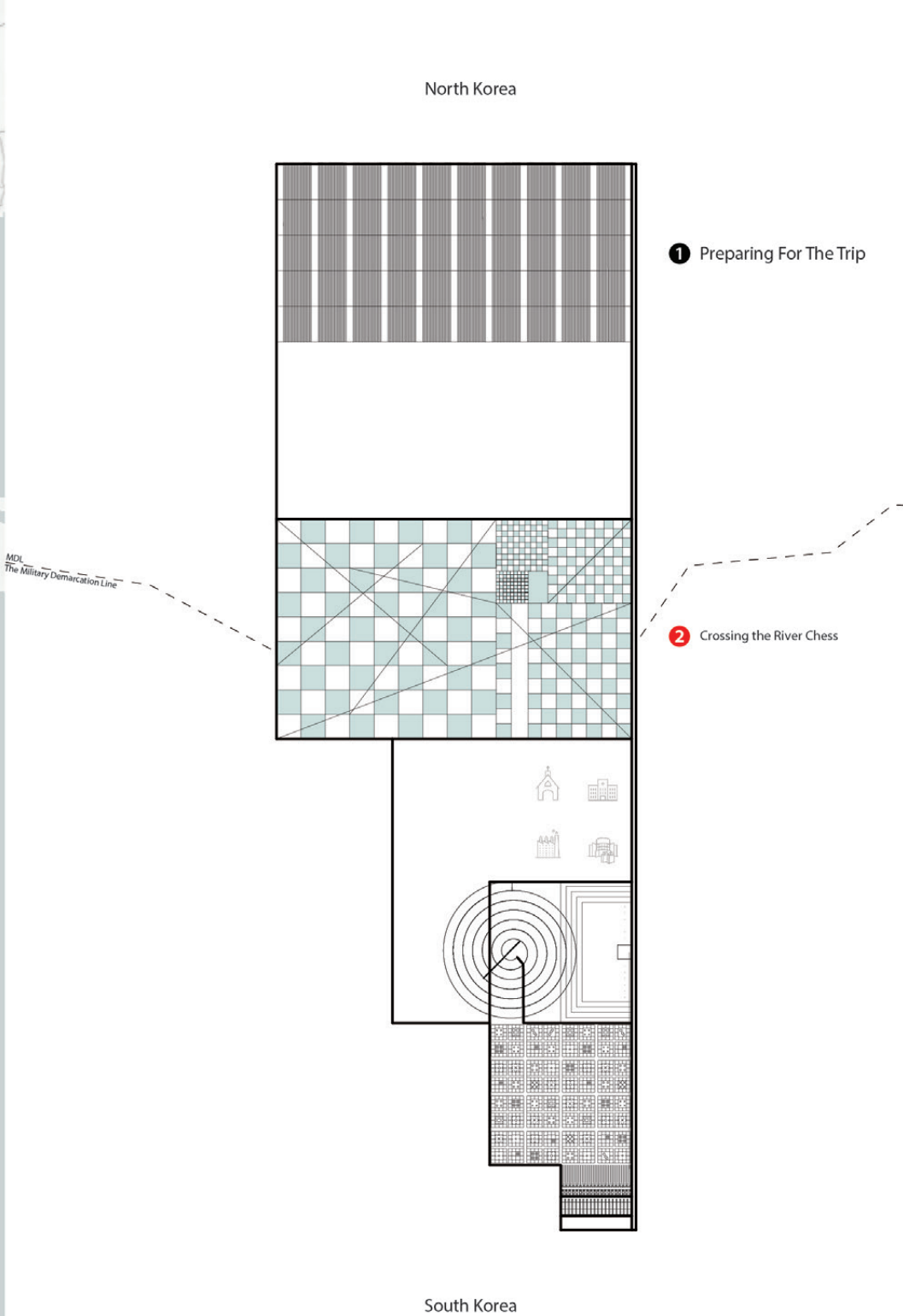
Our story starts here. Left of image shows South Koreans can directly take the train crossing DMZ to northside. On the contrary, this is also the beginning of the journey for North Koreans.



North Korean men ride a makeshift raft made of fastened logs down the Yalu river that divides North Korea from the Chinese border town of Linjiang in northeastern China's Jilin province. December 25, 2017



A North Korean boat on the Yalu River, which marks much of the border between North Korea and China. April 1, 2016



The River of Death

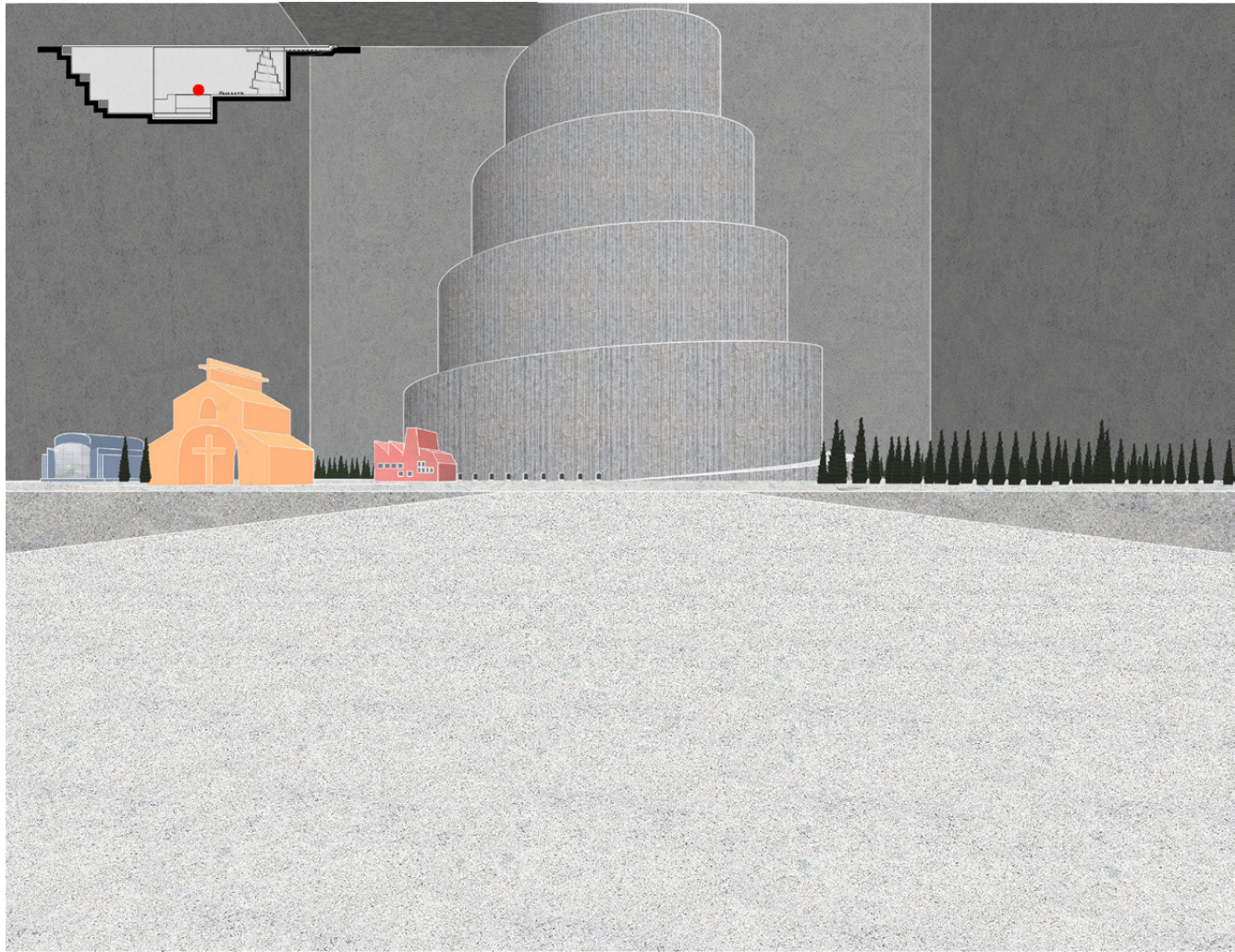
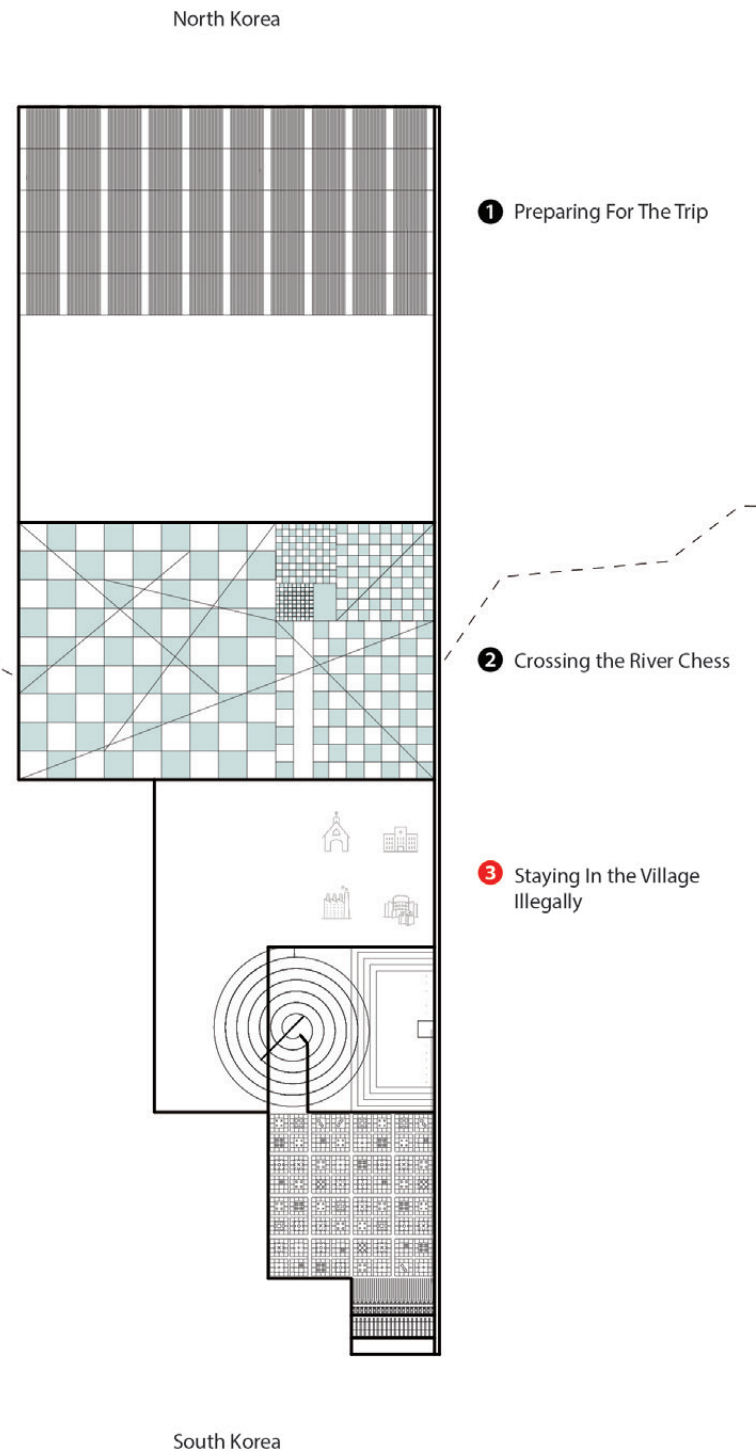
The chessboard road is bound to be impassable that implies more than 10% of north defector died in the Yalu river when they are crossing China-north Korea border.



Up to 30,000 children born to North Korean mothers who have fled the regime are living in China without access to schooling, health care or citizenship, MPs have heard. February 5,2016



North Korean women live desperate lives, even after escaping from North. November 9, 2016



Choice of Life

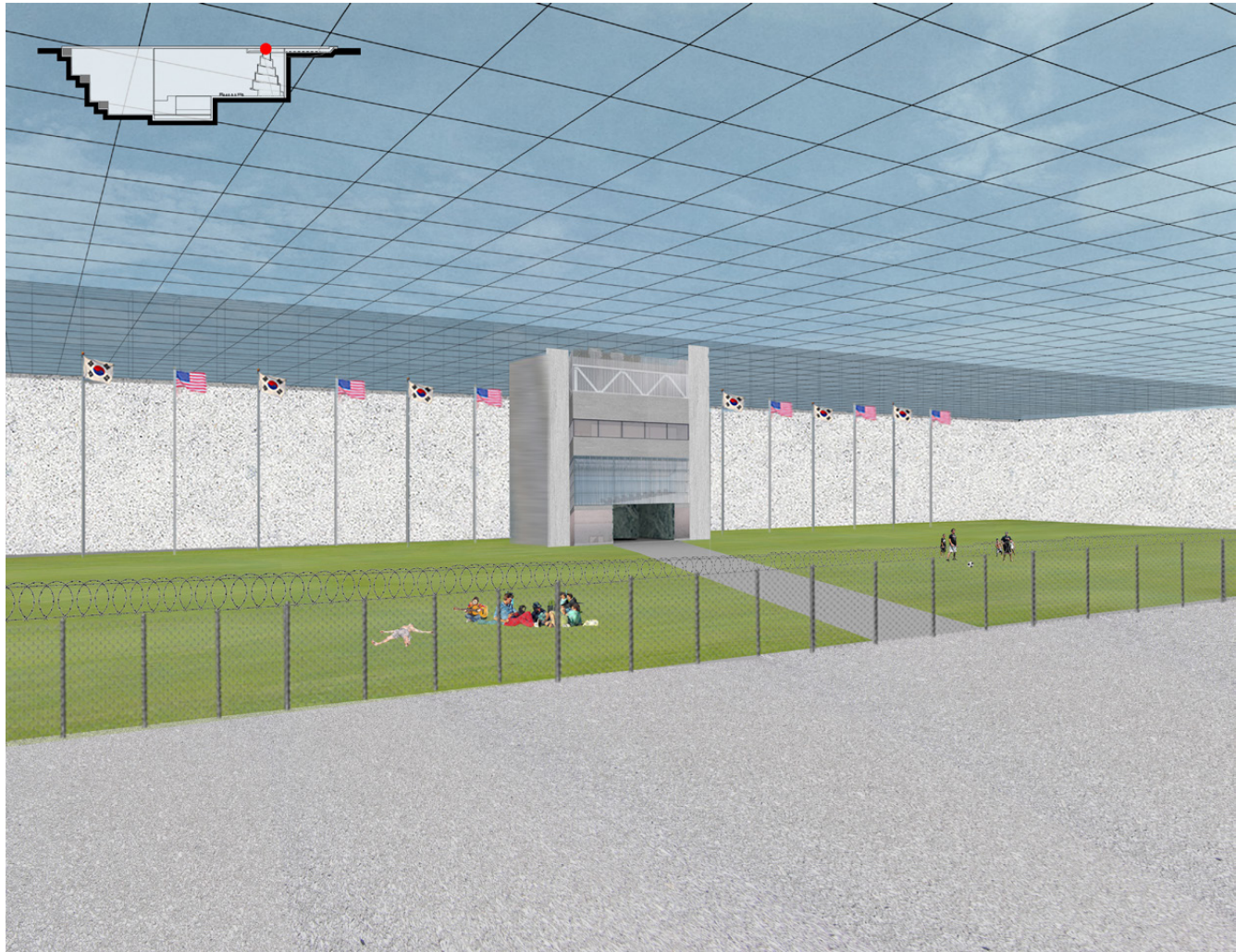
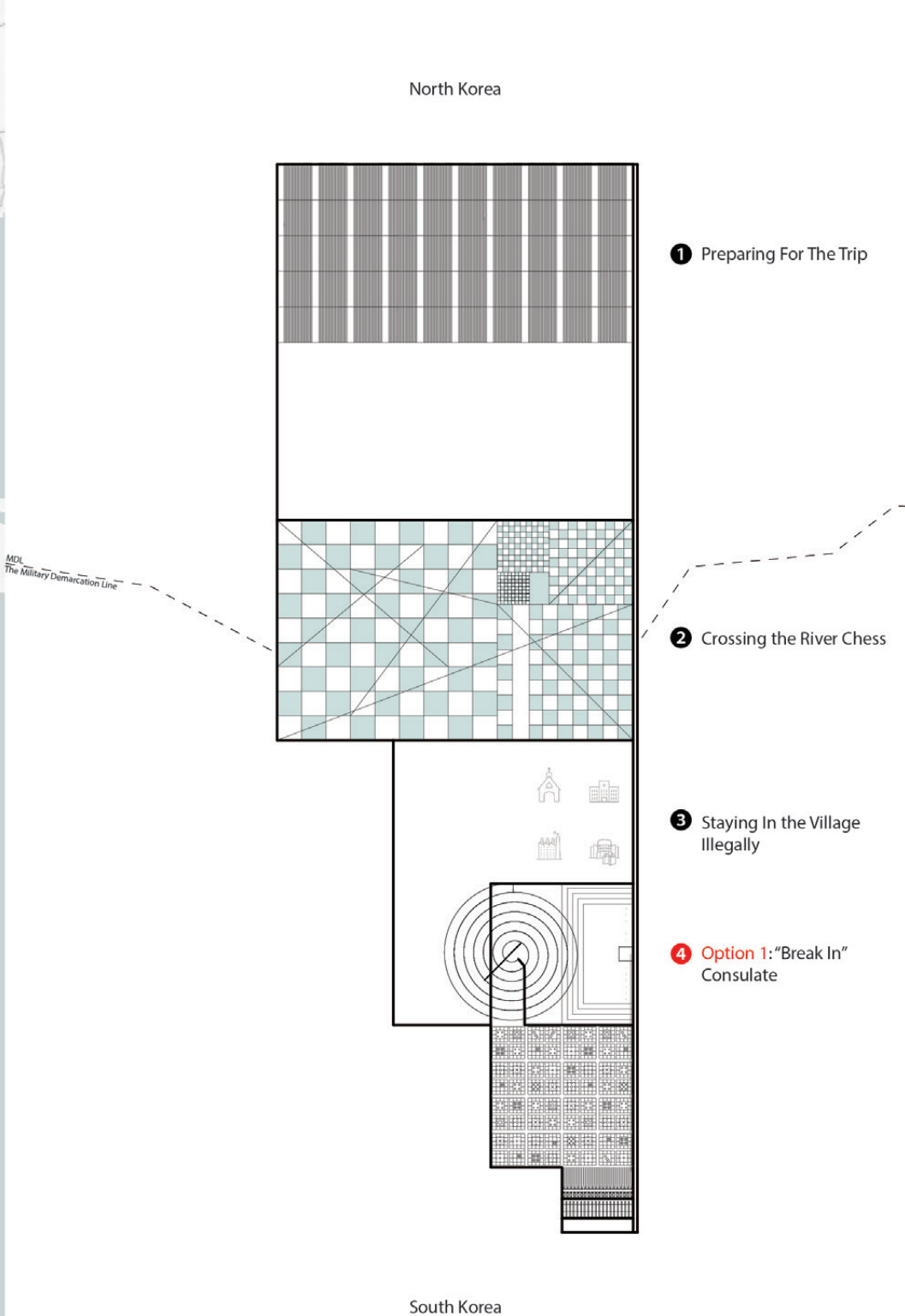
Ramp as a symbolic element which represents the longest journey to Tailband that dominate the whole image, two sides view represents north defectors temporary life in China.



A group of five North Korean who fled North Korea were arrested by Chinese polices and detained in Shenyang, The family refused to be forced to repatriate to North Korea, so they were likely suicided themselves by taking poison. May 8,2002



Kim Han-mi, aged 2, watches her mother being dragged by Chinese policemen when her family attempted to enter into the Japanese Consulate in order to seek asylum in Shenyang, China. May 8,2002



Embassy

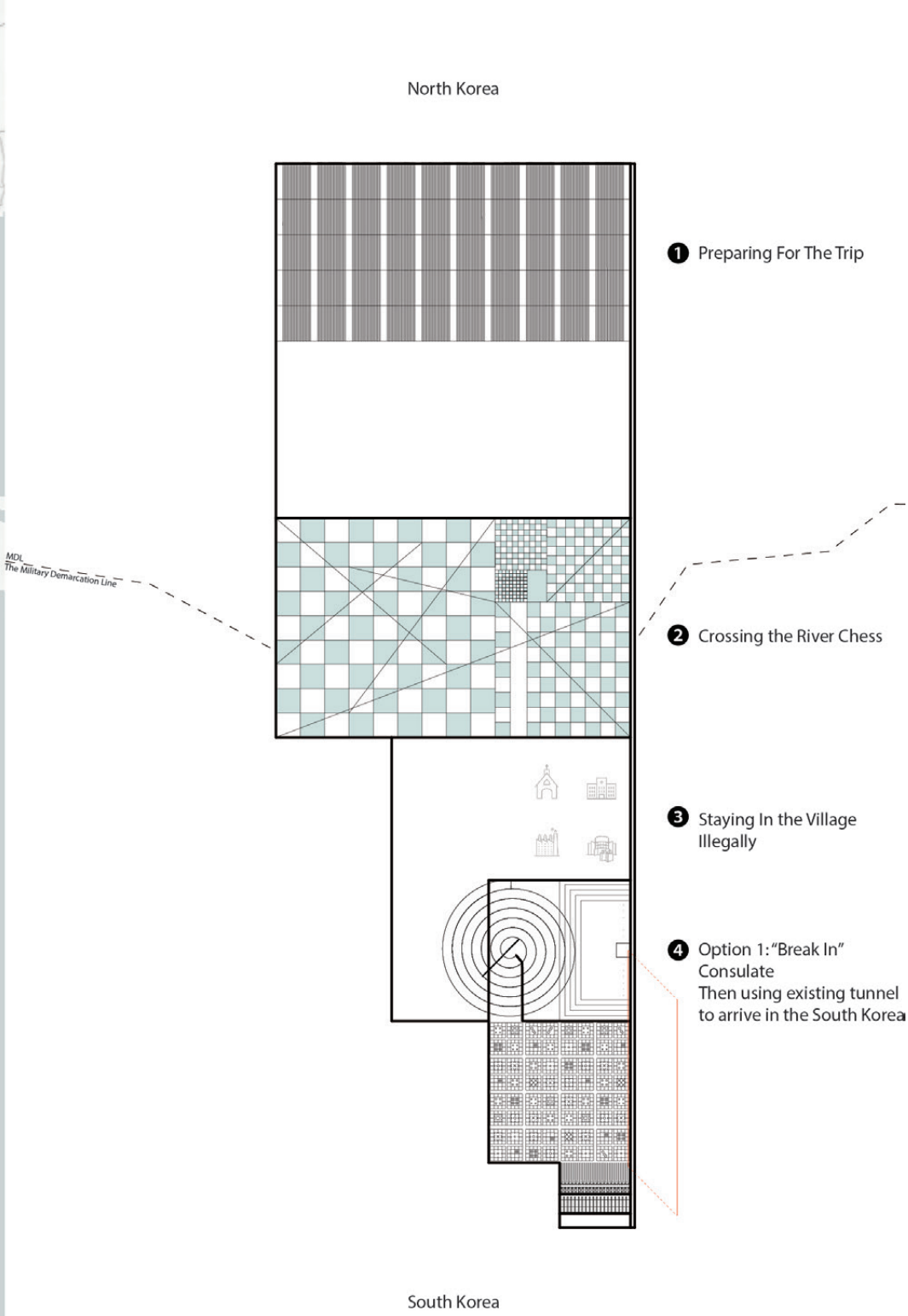
Not until escape arresting and preventing from China armed policeman, North defectors can enter the South Korean embassy.



North Korean defectors were waiting for the flight. August 15, 2015



North Korean defectors arriving in South Korea Thursday. April 11, 2016



The Tunnel

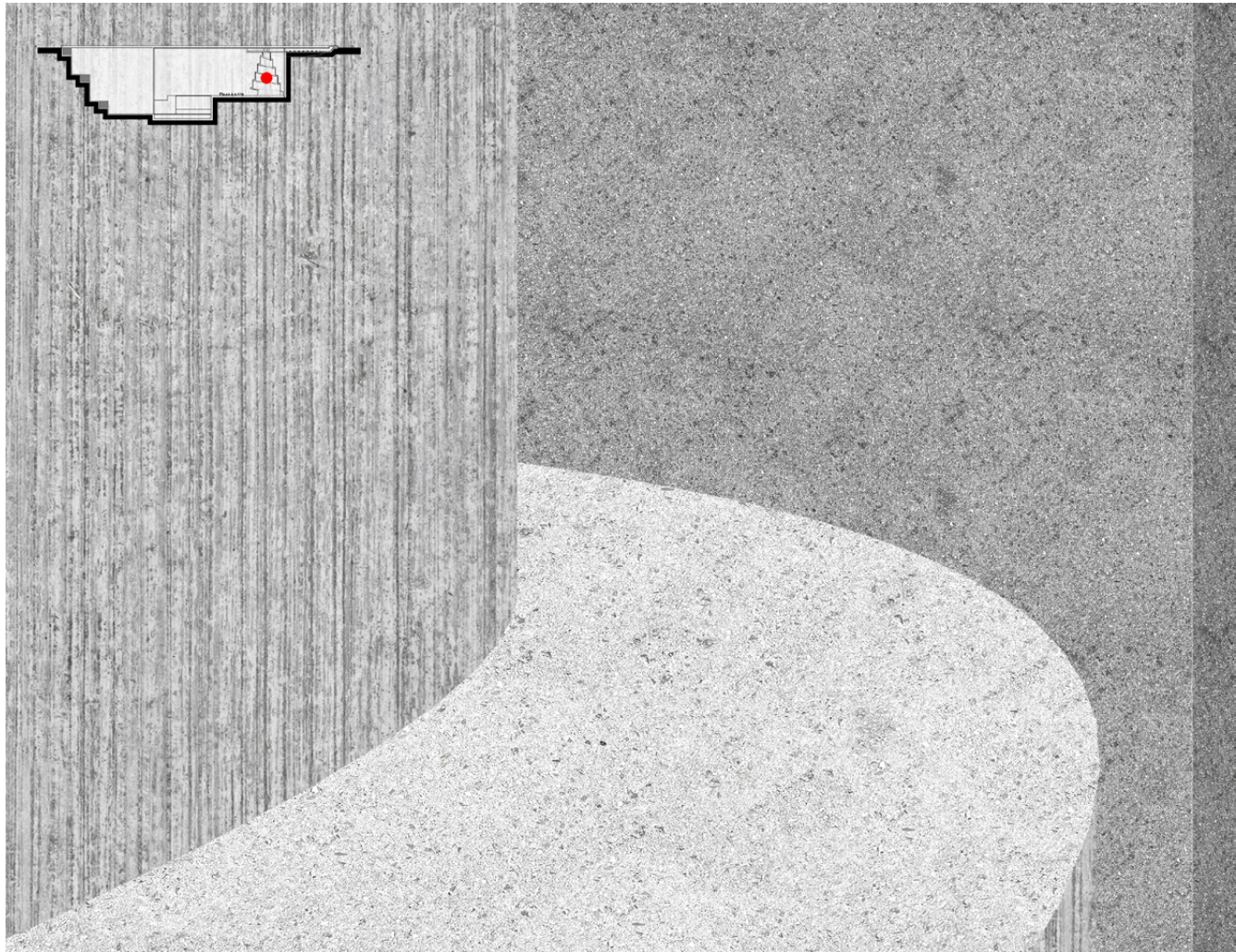
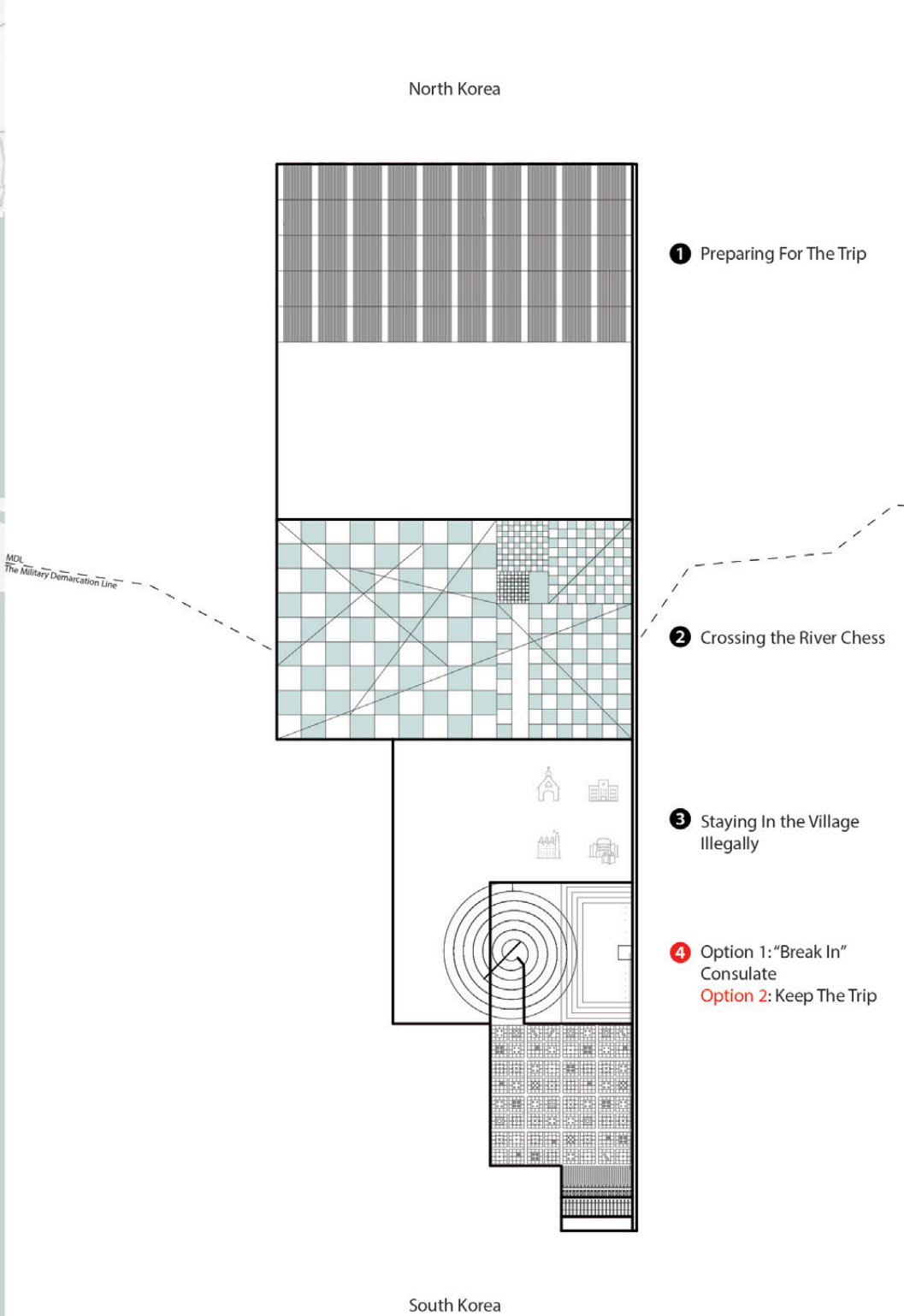
Invasion tunnel used to be planned as a military invasion route by north Korea. It was also a first try to make connection between both side. Now, North Korea defectors can directly cross DMZ use this fast path.



Thousands now make their way along the more than 5,000km, often-dangerous route, through China and Laos to the kingdom en route to South Korea. August 9,2011



North Koreans crossing the Mekong into Thailand. February 20,2013



Longest Road

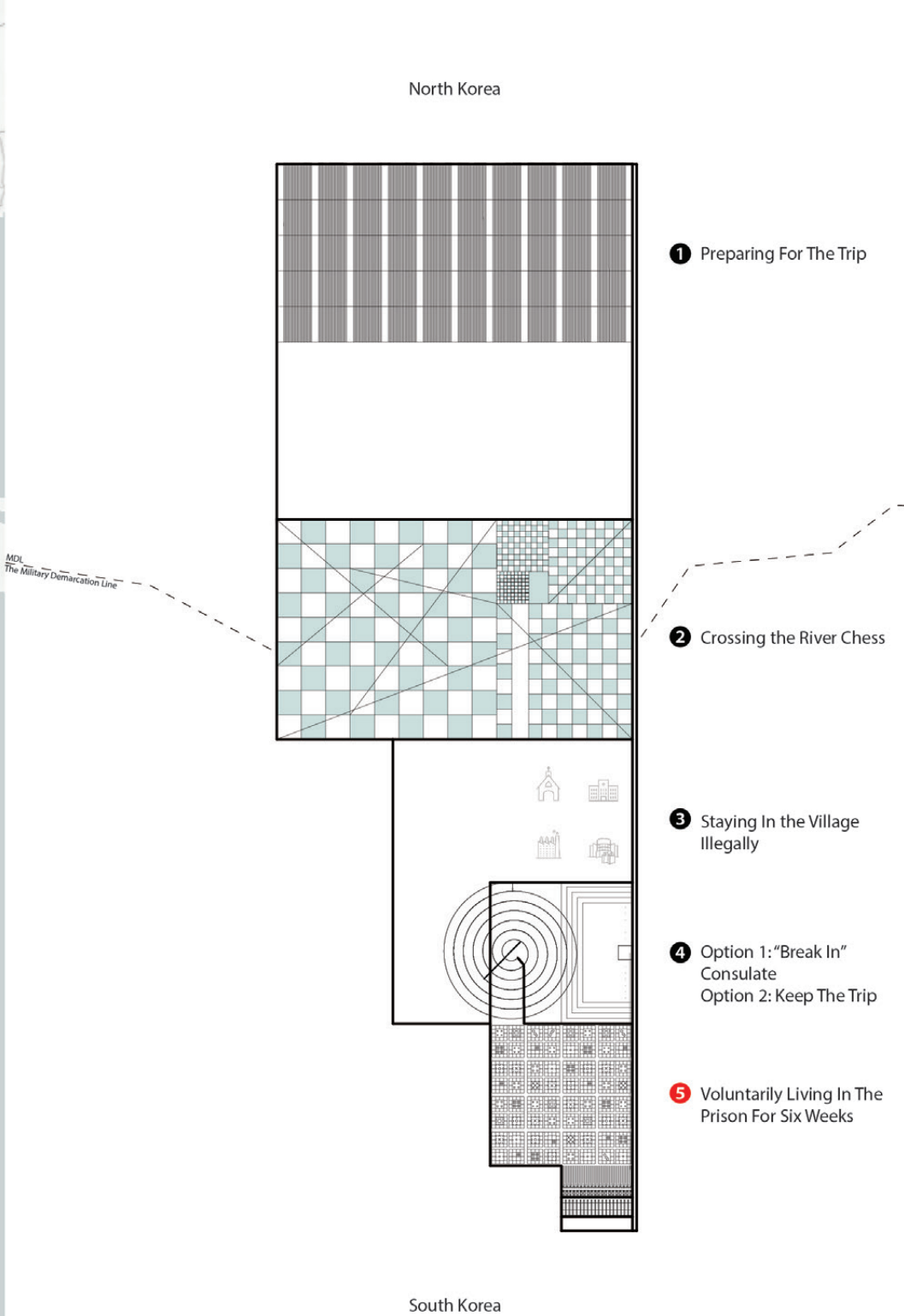
Over thousands of miles long trip is tedious and unromantic, the only thing they should do is keep going.



A defector from North Korea hoping to reach South Korea via Thailand sits in her cell at the Chiang Saen police station in Thailand. May 9, 2007



The entire group was transferred to an immigration detention center to await repatriation, but police said the North Koreans were hoping to be declared refugees and to be relocated to South Korea instead. August 22, 2006



The Prison of Hope

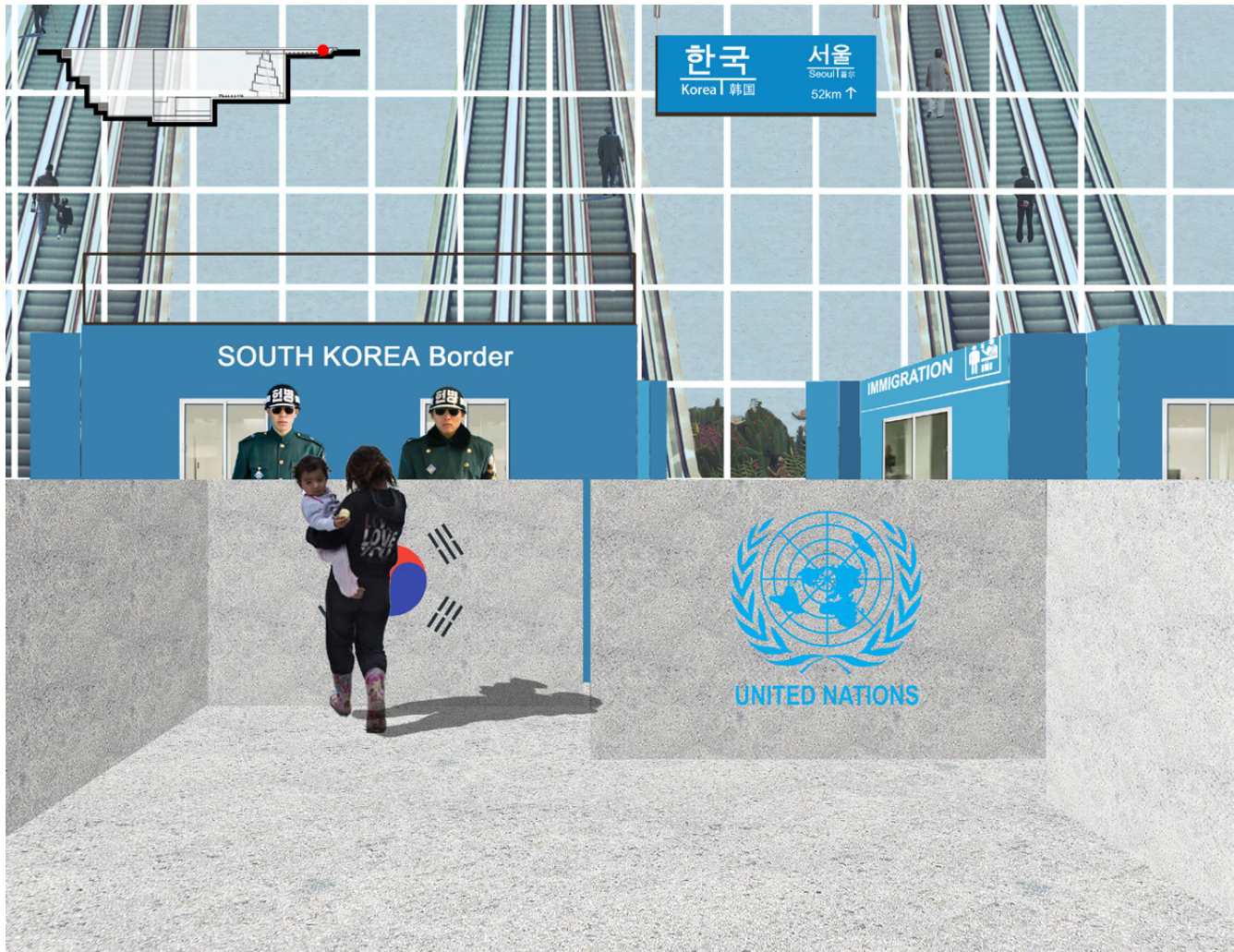
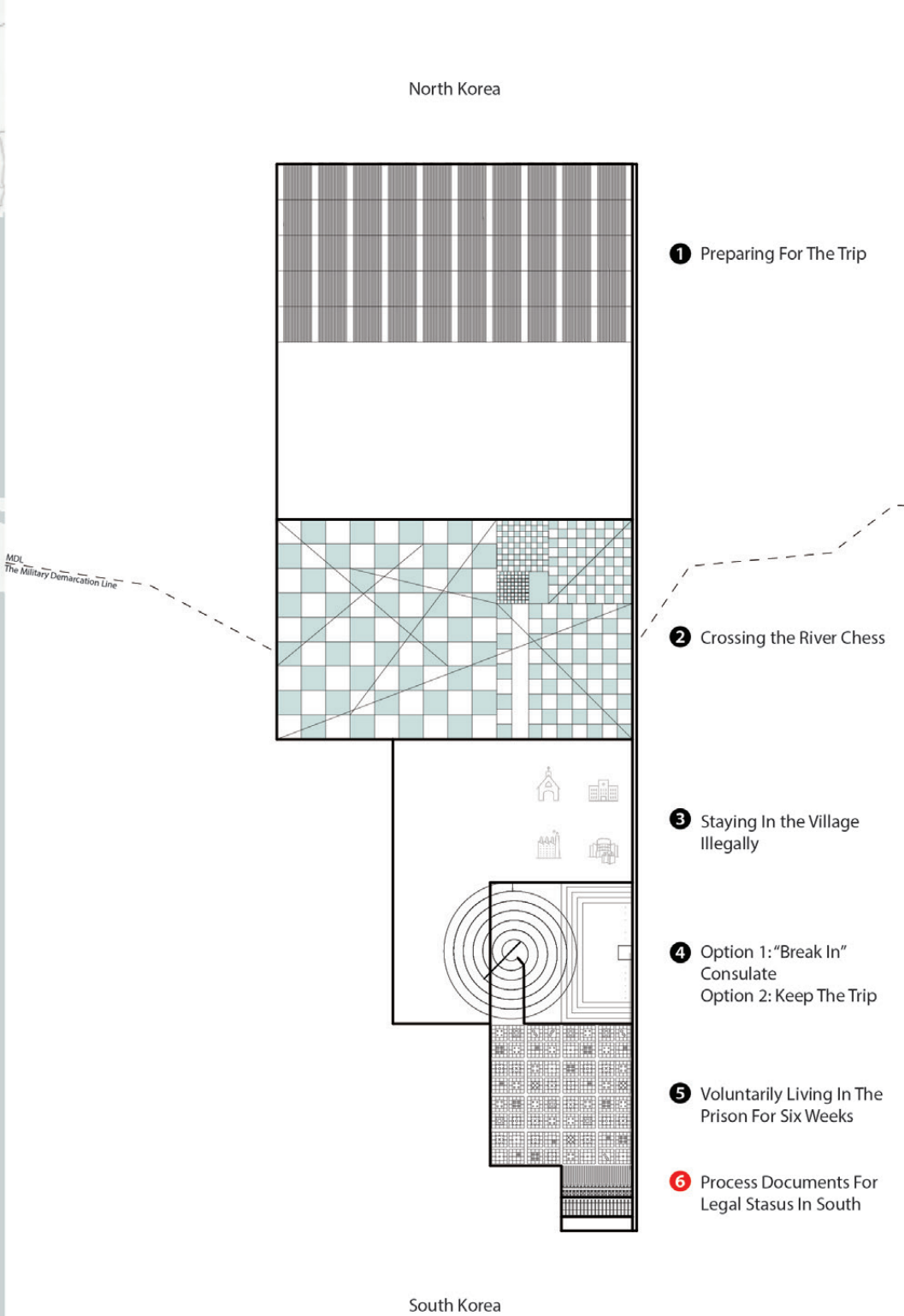
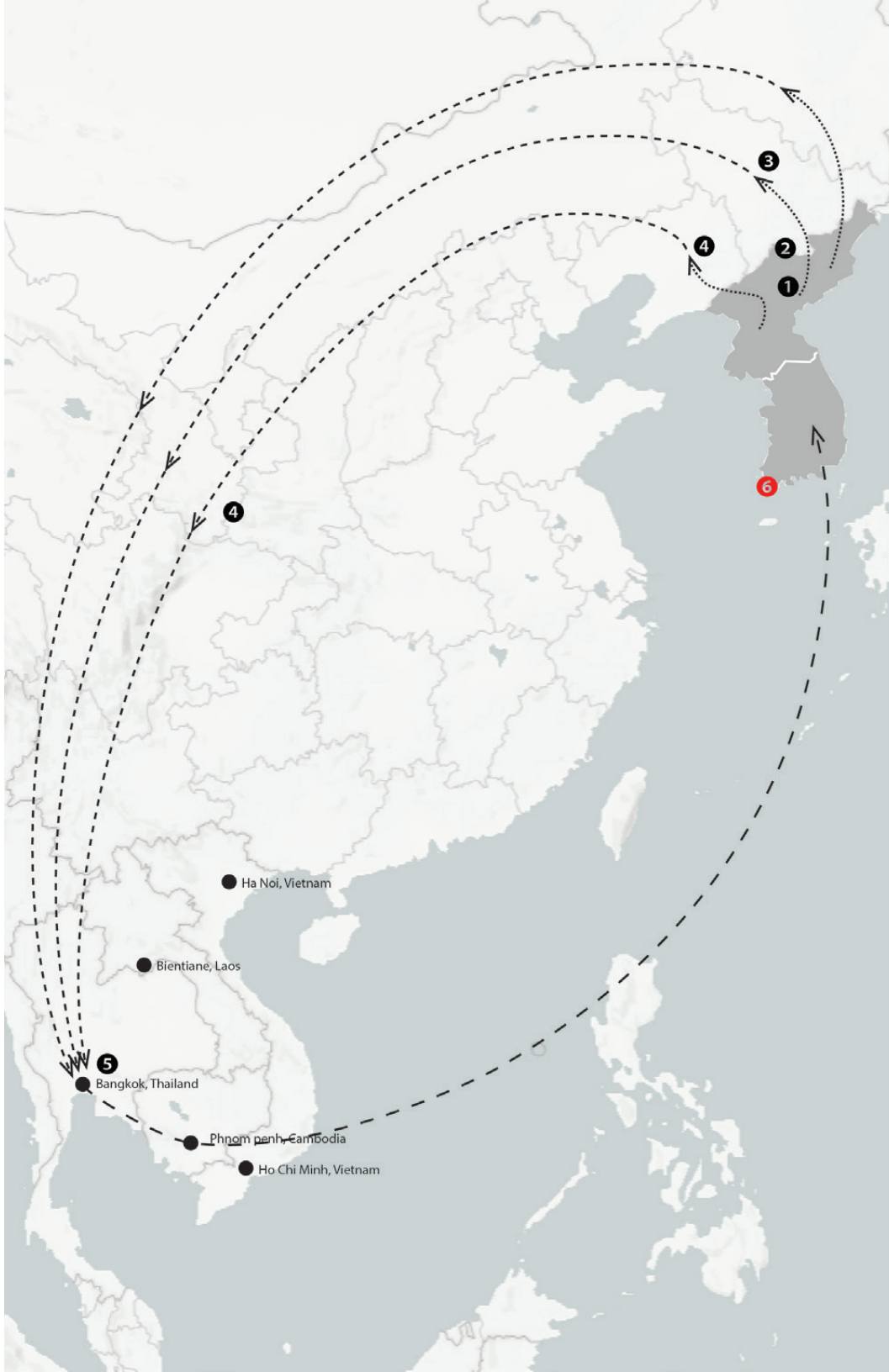
After 6 hours stay here, North defectors are free to go. This mini prison represents when people arrive Thailand, they were treated as Illegal travelers, waiting around 6 months in real life in order to delivering to South Korea.



North Korean defectors wave after arriving in South Korea. January 10,1997



North Korean defectors aim to be deported from Thailand to South Korea. August 8, 2017



Exchanging Nationality

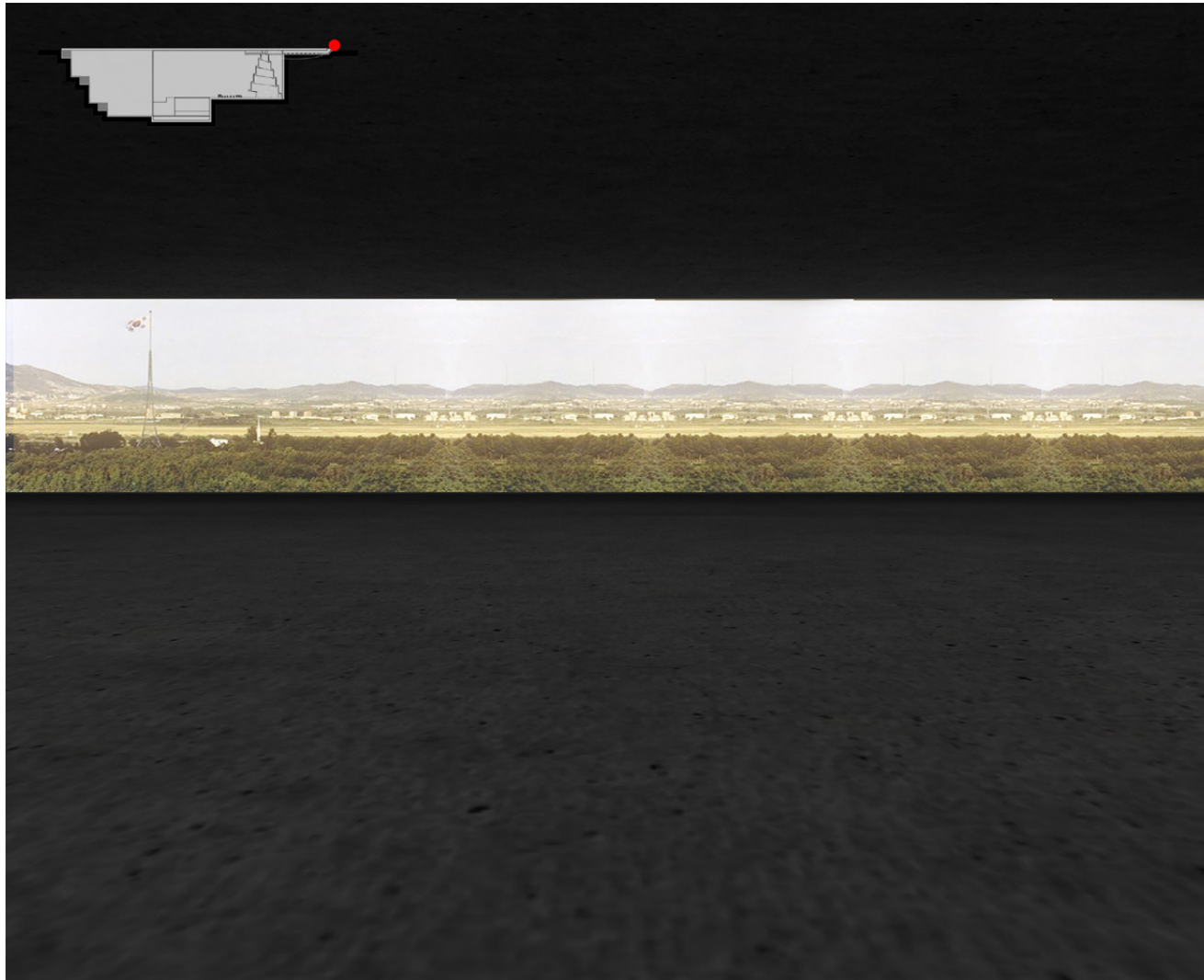
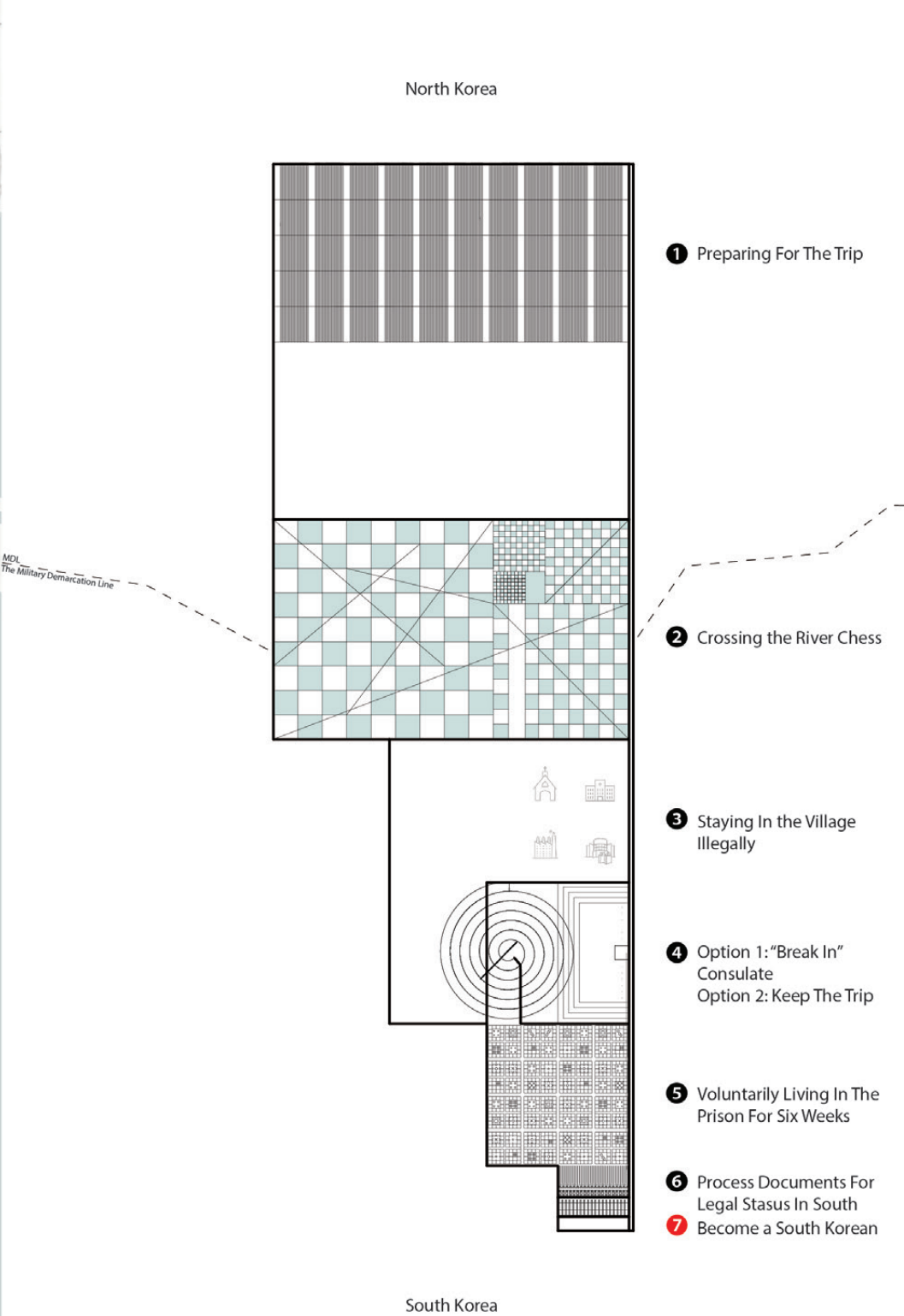
This is the last step of Bridge of no return. North Koreans will change their nationality here. Crossing the border, they no longer belong to north side anymore.



Han Seohee (right) and fellow North Korean defectors Lee Gwang-sung (left) and Hwang Soyeon (center) are regulars on Moranbong Club, a South Korean talk show featuring North Korean defectors. January 31, 2016



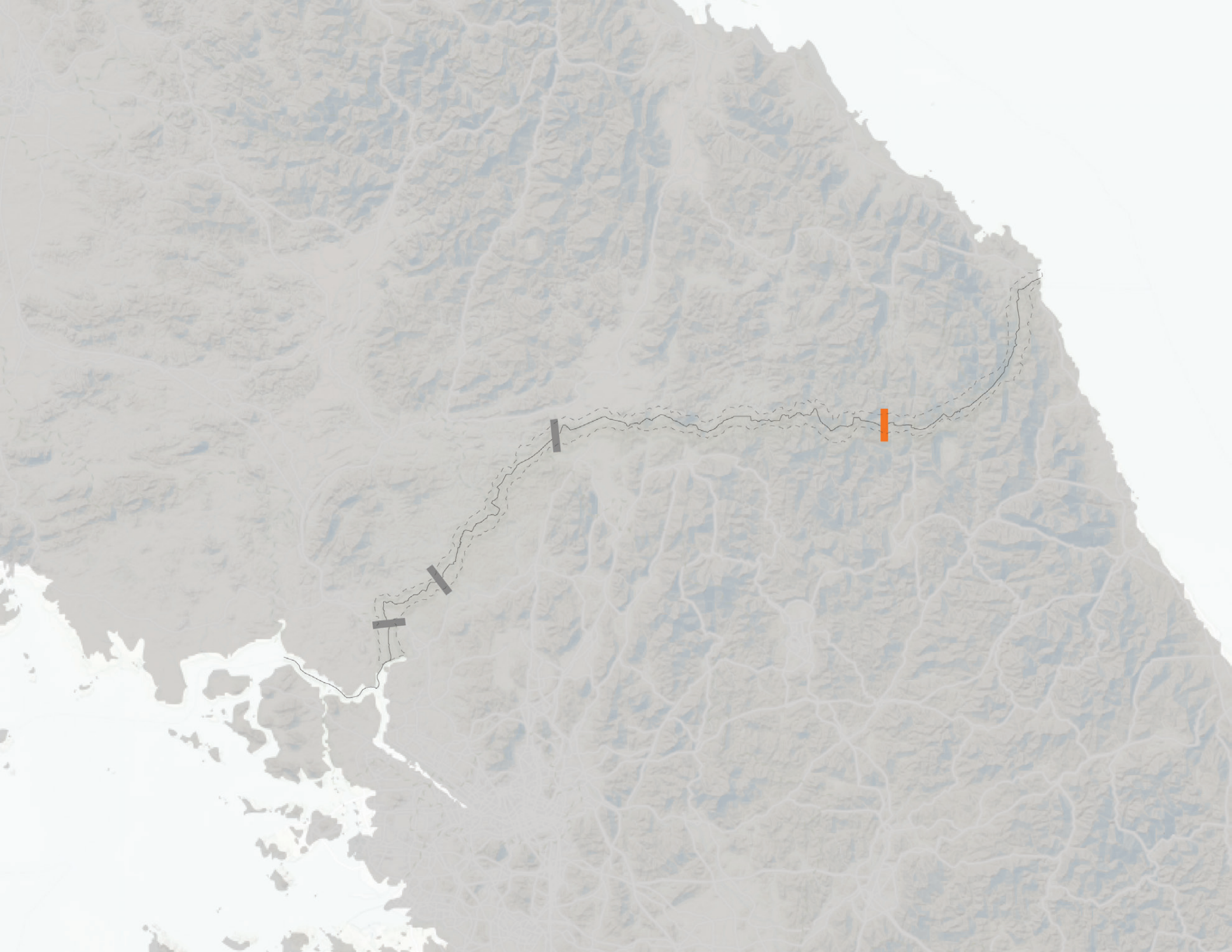
Hyeonso Lee in Seoul, South Korea, where she now campaigns for human rights. June 28, 2015



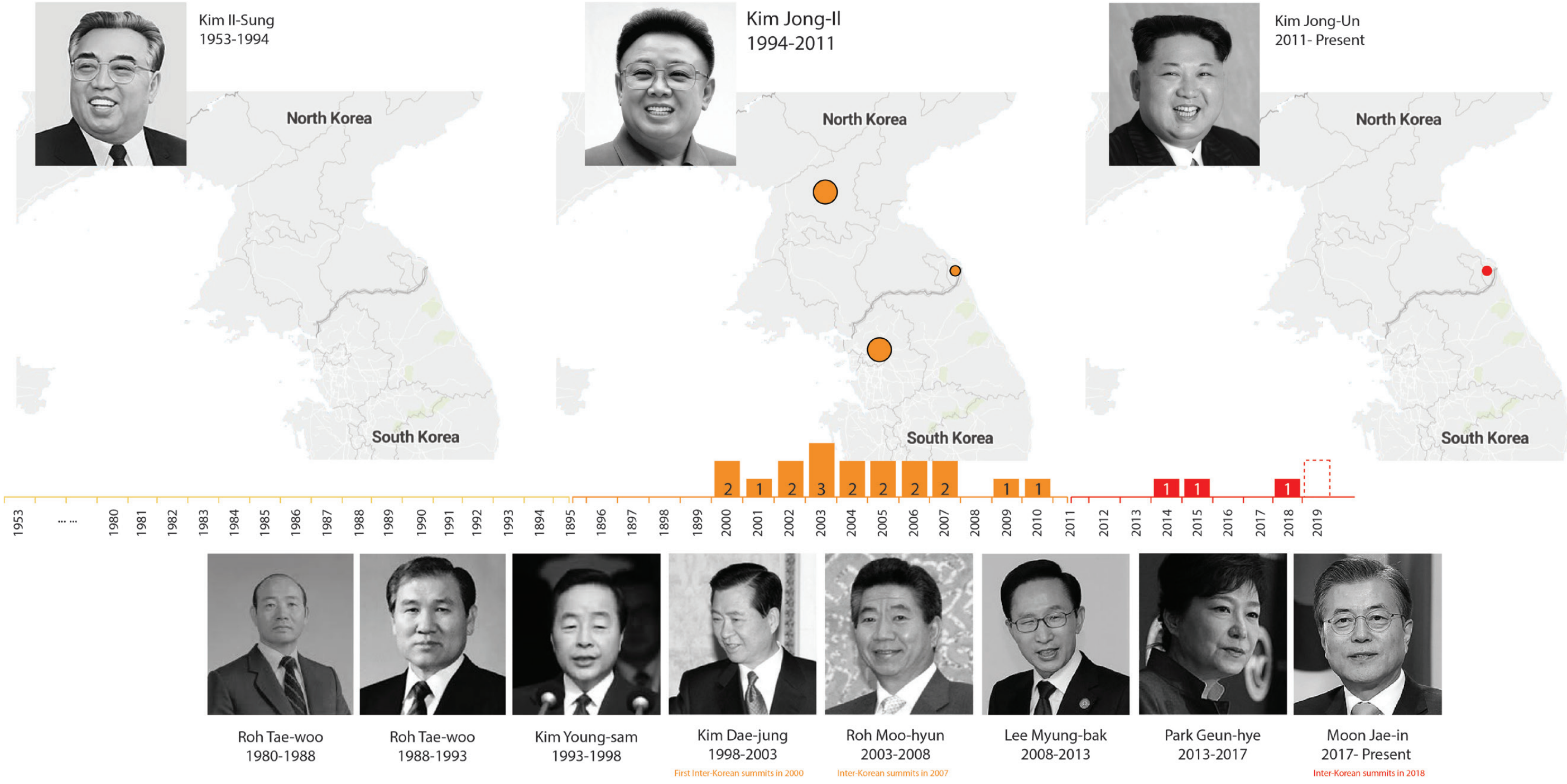
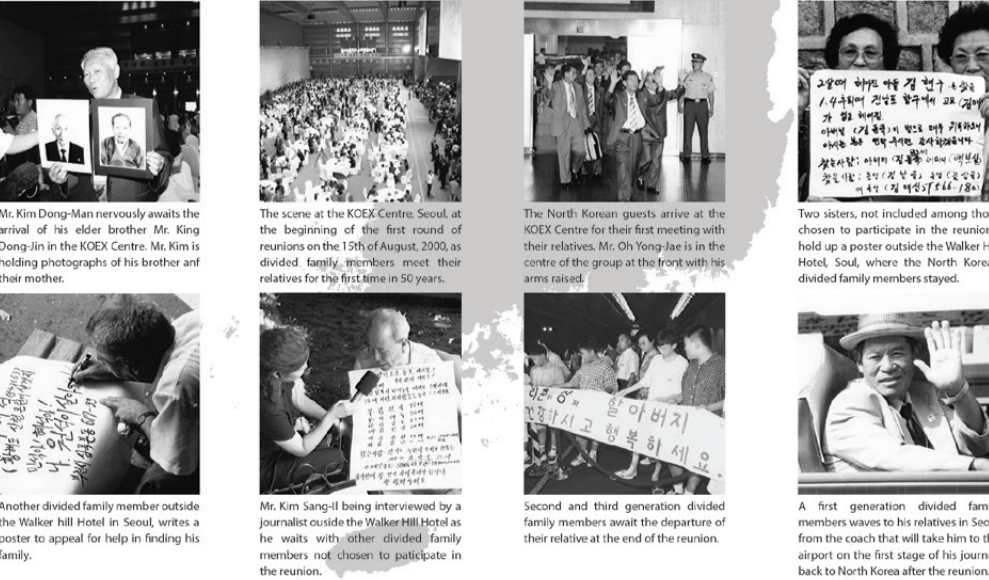
The Window of Future

The scenery of South Korea fills the window, which indicate people will start their new life in the south country.

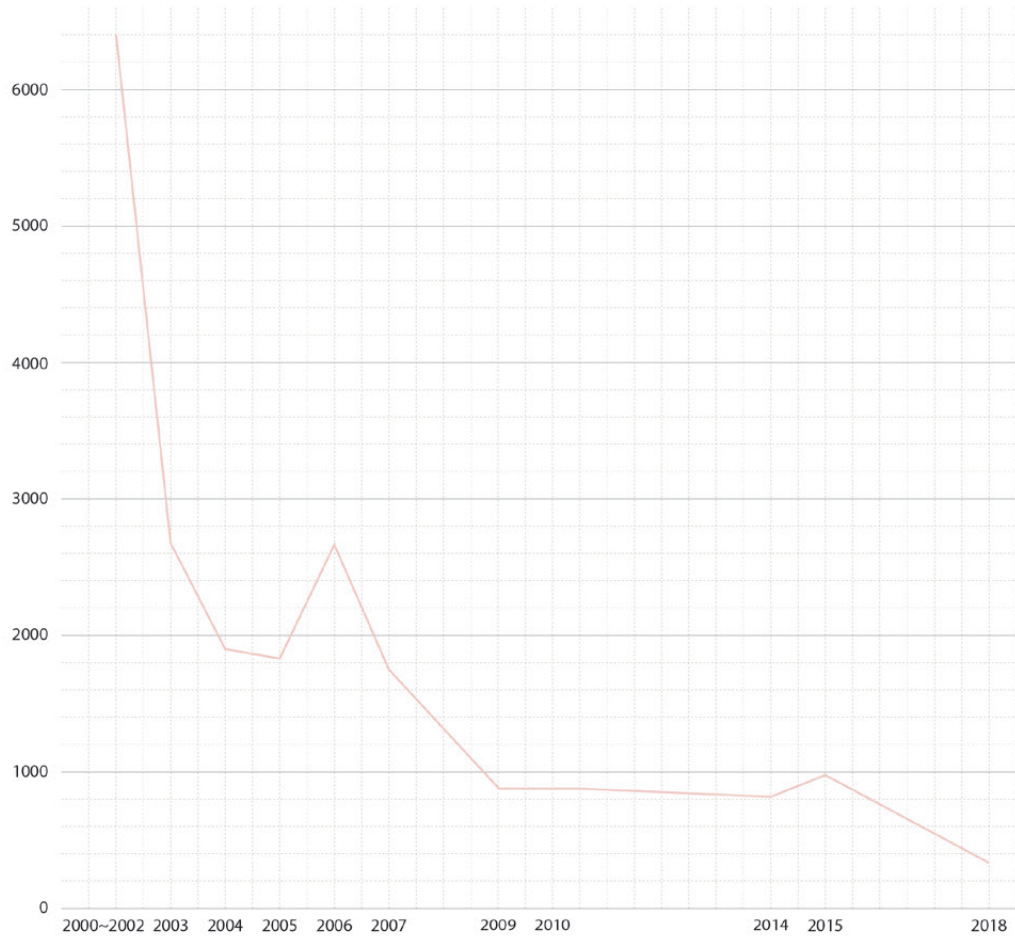
BRIDGE OF REUNION



Since the end of the Korean War in 1953, there has been virtually no contact between the citizens of the two countries, including the many families who were divided during the turmoil that engulfed Korea after liberation from Japanese rule and during the three-year Korean War. Many people in both North Korea and South Korea have lost contact with the rest of their family, and are unable to communicate with them due to strict regulations across borders.



The Number Of People Meeting With Families In Every Year



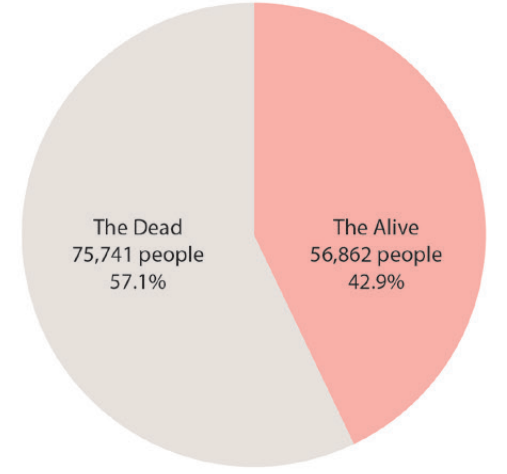
The Amount Of People Who Have Met Families



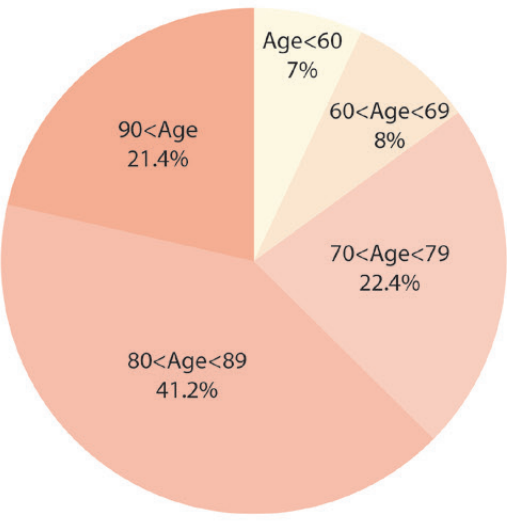
The Total Amount Of Divided Families



State of alive proportion of divided families



State of age group of divided families



The New York Times

South Korea has repeatedly urged the North to hold more reunions. But Pyongyang has been reluctant to expand the program, fearing the impact that meetings with affluent South Koreans might have on its impoverished population.

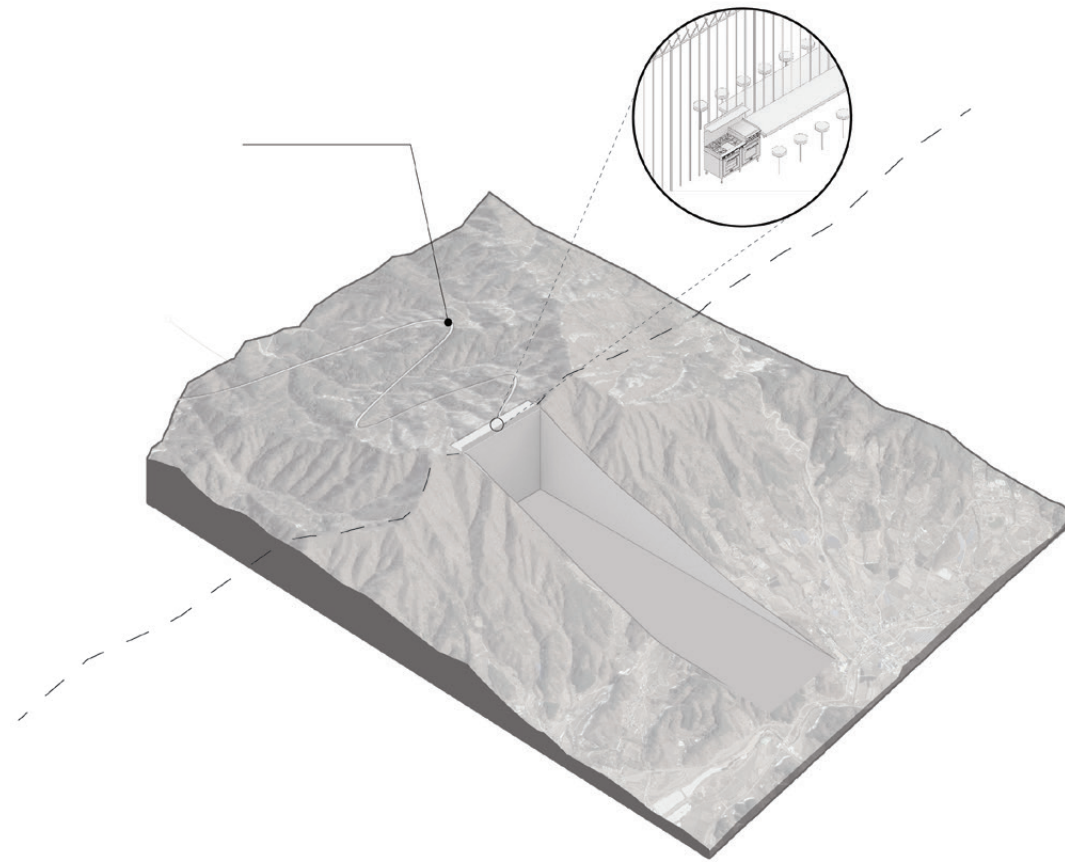
ASIA PACIFIC | Korean Families, Separated for 6 Decades, Are Briefly Reunited

North Korea is believed to select people for reunions on the basis of loyalty to its regime. It is also thought to prepare them extensively for the meetings, when North Koreans typically insist that they live happy lives as a result of the generosity of their leader, Kim Jong-un, and often blame the United States for preventing reunification on the Korean Peninsula.

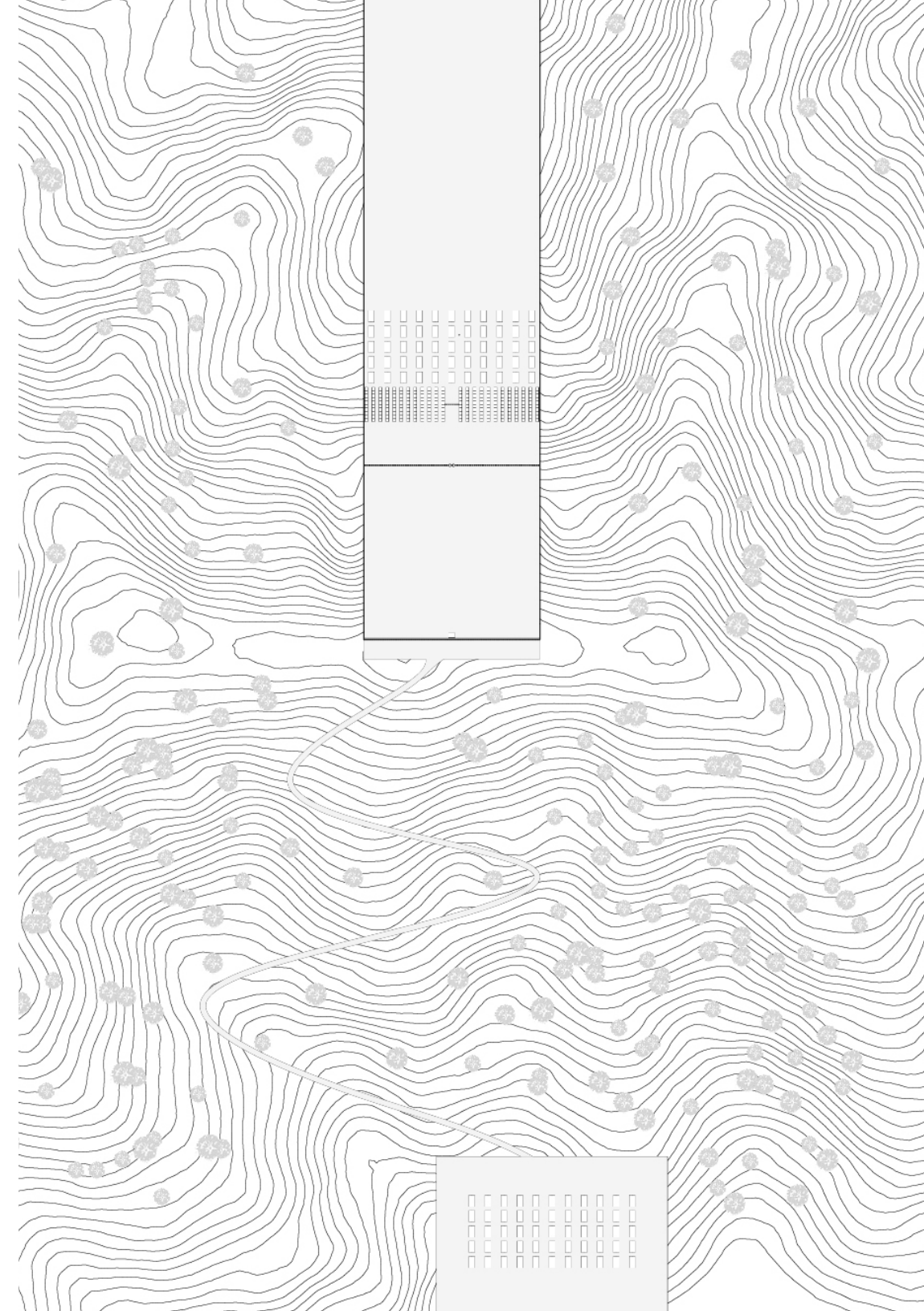
President Moon Jae-in of South Korea has pushed for new efforts to build trust between the two Koreas since his meeting with the North's leader in April, as well as Mr. Kim's summit meeting with President Trump in June.

"They are dying without even finding out whether their loved ones are alive," Mr. Moon said on Monday, as he called for more reunions before it was too late. "This is a situation both the South and North Korean governments must consider extremely shameful."

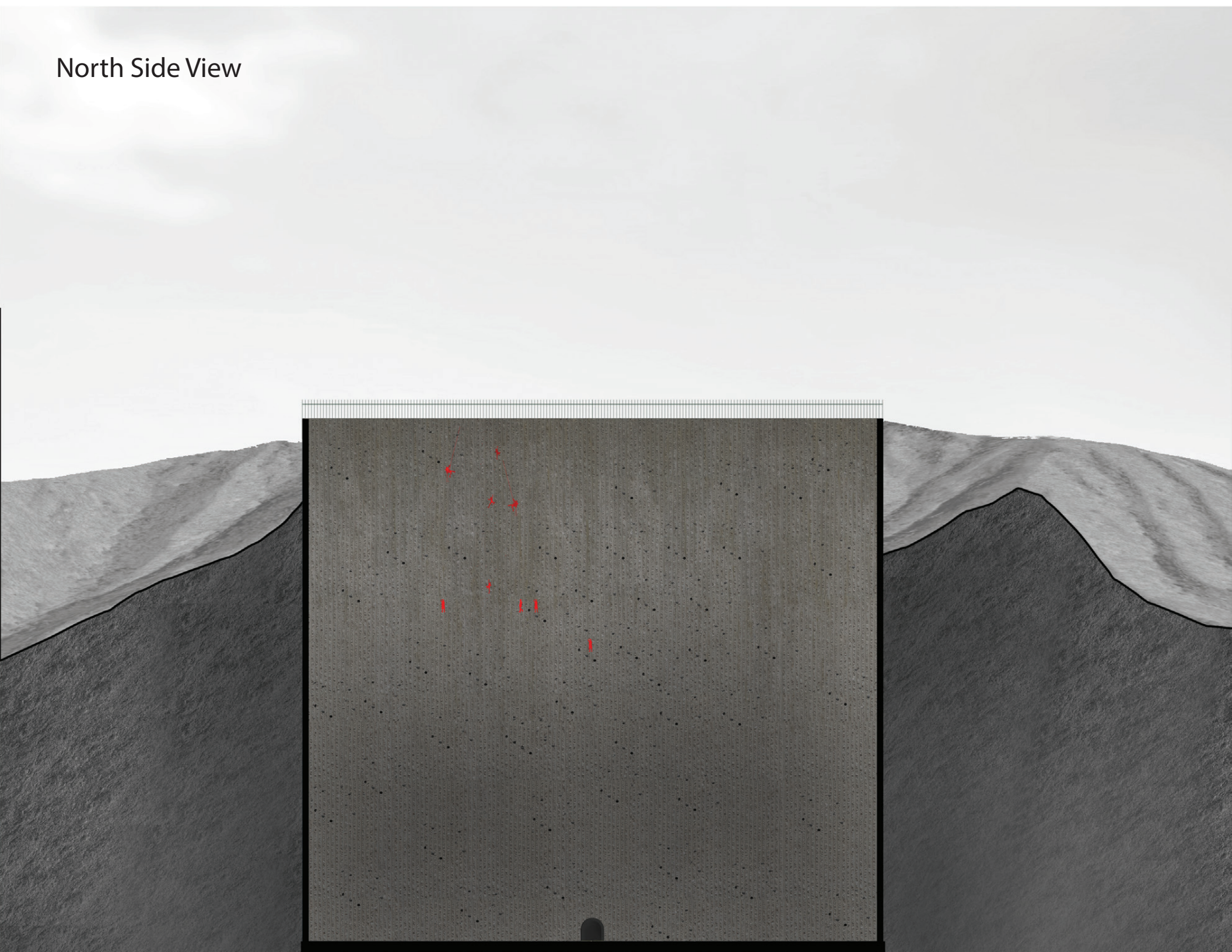
A version of this article appears in print on Aug. 21, 2018, on Page A8 of the New York edition with the headline: For Korean Families Separated for 6 Decades, a 3-Day Chance to Catch Up. Order Reprints | Today's Paper | Subscribe



Because of different attitudes and policies of the North Korea and the South Korea, we think mountain as a metaphor of the reality of reunion of divided family, and I express their condition in our project. The North Korea cuts the whole piece of mountain, and the South Korea keeps the original topography of mountain and generates a natural pathway on it.



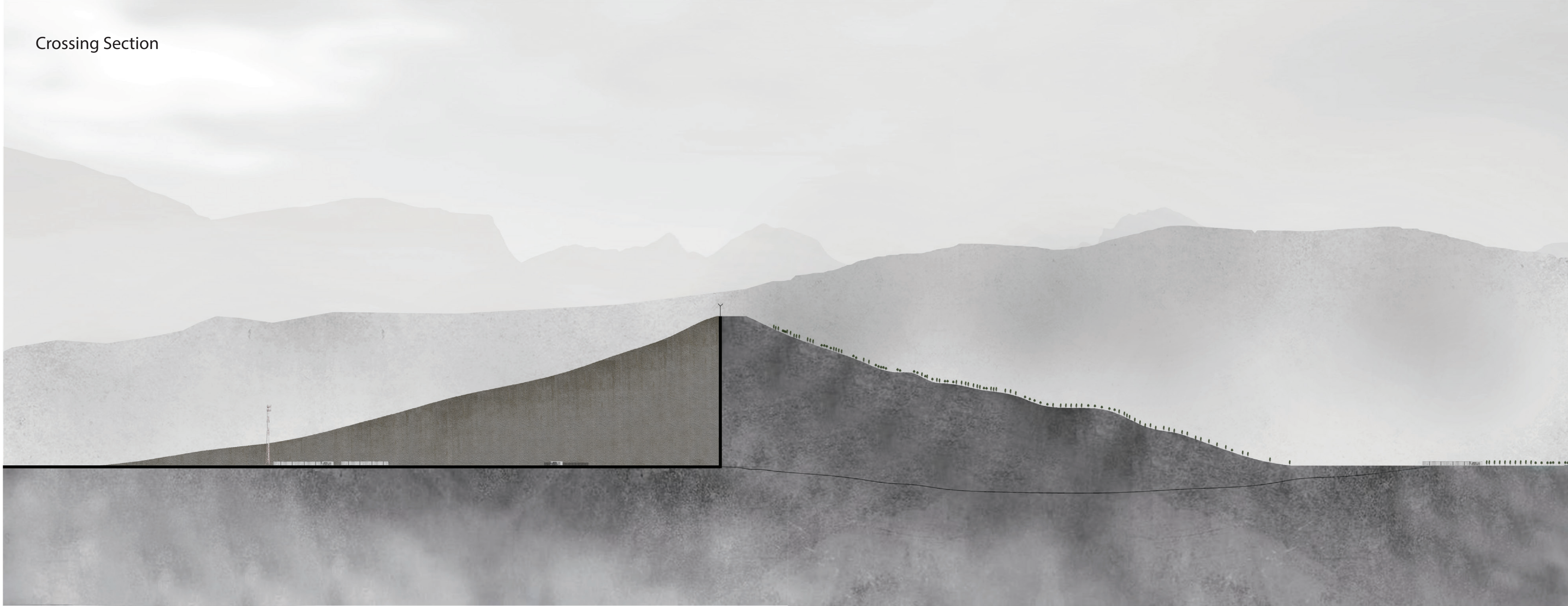
North Side View



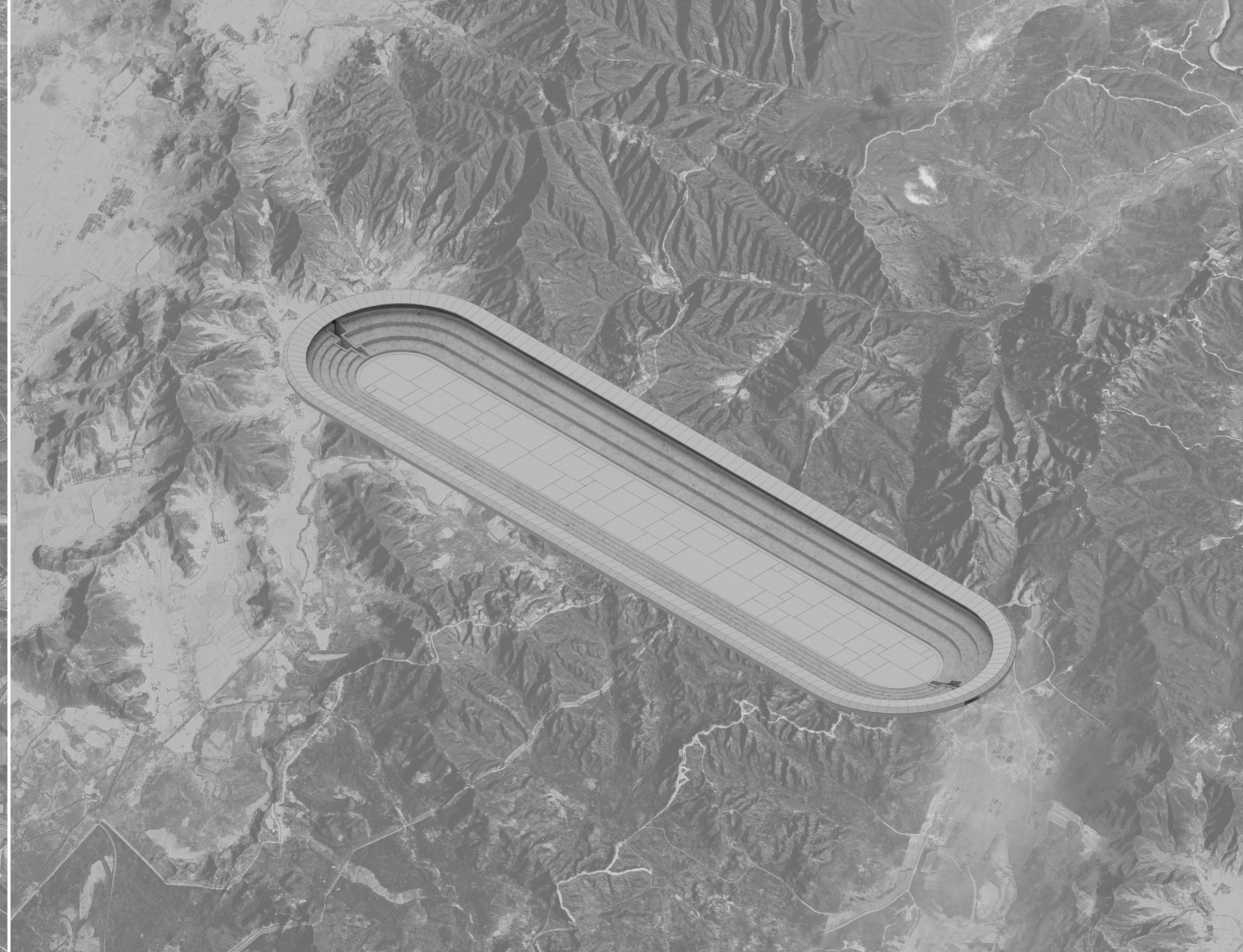
South Side View



Crossing Section



FANTASY IMAGES



Bibliography

Works Cited:

Architectural Association (Great Britain). School of Architecture. Dogma: 11 Projects. London: AA Publications, 2013.

Dongsei, Kim, "A Construct The Koreas (Never) Made Together Deconstructing the DMZ For The Imaginary", Vimeo, 2014, <https://vimeo.com/93697167>

Foley, James A. (James Alexander), 1957. Korea's Divided Families: Fifty Years of Separation. London;New York,: RoutledgeCurzon, 2003.

Koolhaas, Rem, Madelon Vreindorp, Elia Zenghelis, and Zoe Zenghelis, "Exodus, or the voluntary prisoners of architecture", 1972

Image Used:

KTV scons, "2018 inter-Korean family reunion", Youtube, August, 26, 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXa2HiDjaG4>

Hyeonseo Lee, "The night I helped my mother escape North Korea", The Guardian, June 28, 2015, <http://www.khaosodenglish.com/politics/2015/11/18/1447847444/>

Rakkanam, Pimuk, "Thailand Arrests American For 'Smuggling' in North Koreans", Radio Free Asia, August, 05, 2015, <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/korea/thailand-korea-08052015174444.html>

Charuvastra, Teeranai, "7 NORTH KOREANS ARRESTED ON THAI-LAOTIAN BORDER", khaosodenglish, November 18, 2015, <http://www.khaosodenglish.com/politics/2015/11/18/1447847444/>

Shim, Elizabeth, "The North Koreans traveled on "valid passports," according to Beijing", UPI, APRIL 11, 2016, https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2016/04/11/China-confirms-defections-of-13-North-Koreans/9631460387605/

Image Used:

Hu, Elise, “South Korea’s Newest TV Stars Are North Korean Defectors”, Parallels, January 31, 2016, <https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2016/01/31/464798910/south-koreas-newest-tv-stars-are-north-korean-defectors>

“The Story of the North Defectors”, The China Press, August, 04, 2017, <http://ny.uschinapress.com/spotlight/2017/08-04/125626.html>

Sean, Chiang, “North Koreans escape from hunger”, August, 09, 2011, <http://www.irinnews.org/report/93461/thailand-north-koreans-escape-hunger>

Enos, Olivia, “North Korean Women Live Desperate Lives, Even After Escape”, THE DAILY SIGNAL, November, 09, 2016, <https://www.dailysignal.com/2016/11/09/north-korean-women-live-desperate-lives-even-after-escape/>

“Smugglers who worked North Korea-China border seeing tough times under Kim, sanctions”, the japan times, December, 25, 2017, <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/12/25/asia-pacific/social-issues-asia-pacific/smugglers-worked-north-korea-china-border-seeing-tough-times-kim-sanctions/#.XA4QTuhKhPY>

Winn, Patrick, “More North Koreans are escaping to Thailand via an ‘underground railroad’”, PRI, August 04, 2017, <https://www.pri.org/stories/2017-08-04/more-north-koreans-are-escaping-thailand-underground-railroad>

Petkar, Sofia, “ Thousands of North Koreans flee to Thailand with help of Christian ‘underground railroad’”, EXPRESS, August, 08, 2017, <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/838617/world-war-3-north-korea-latest-north-korean-defectors-christian-underground-railroad>

Fifield, Anna, “Escape from North Korea: defectors risk all on a perilous trek”, Post Magazine, September,16,2017, <https://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/long-reads/article/2111386/escape-north-korea-defectors-risk-all-perilous>

Yun, Jenna Yoojin, “30,000 North Korean children living in limbo in China”, North Korea network, February, 05, 2016, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/05/north-koreas-stateless-children>

Image Used:

Turtle, Michael, "LIFE IN NORTH KOREA", Time Travel Turtle, September, 14, 2011, <https://www.timetravelturtle.com/life-in-north-korea/>

Zhong, Hua, "Refusing to return to North Korea, a family of five who died in China", I Love China, Juny, 24, 2017, <http://www.china5000.us/?p=71924>

"North Koreans smuggled into China", AsiaNews.it, July,26,2016, <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/North-Koreans-smuggled-into-China-38175.html>

"North Koreans Overcome Border Guards in Bold Escape to China", Radio Free Asia, April, 21, 2017, <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/korea/china-border-04212017155720.html>

Griffith, Keith, "North Korea says it will quickly deport American car mechanic who it claims is a 'CIA asset' after he entered country illegally from China last month", Daily Mail, November, 16, 2018, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6397357/North-Korea-deport-American-boasts-new-weapon.html>

"The Strange Origin of the Communist Party of North Korea - Off-topic", POSTS AND NEWS, <http://postsynoticias.com/post/271115/rand>
China News Network, "Photo: The news person in the lens: Kim Jong-un, son of Kim Jong Il", Sohu News, December, 20, 2011, <http://news.sohu.com/20111220/n329627949.shtml>

Ali, Wamiq, "10 absolutely shocking & cold reasons for North Korean Generals to wear 100+ medals", Talk of Web, 2017, <https://www.talkof-web.com/10-absolutely-shocking-cold-reasons-north-korean-generals-wear-100-medals/>

Park, Jongwoo, "Korea's Demilitarized Zone: Photographer captures 'scariest place on earth'", Nine, 2009, <https://travel.nine.com.au/2018/03/15/18/05/korea-scariest-place-on-earth#2>

Wikipedia, "President of South Korea", December, 01, 2018, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_South_Korea

Wikipedia, "Kim dynasty (North Korea)", Dcember, 09, 2018, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kim_dynasty_\(North_Korea\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kim_dynasty_(North_Korea))

Editor, Main, "Speculative Urbanism", GEOFUTURES, June, 10, 2013, <http://geofutures.arch.rpi.edu/2013/06/urban-futurism-precedent-research/>